

'My family was overjoyed'

Siam on winning the National Award



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Siam Ahmed recently won the National Film Award for Best Actor in a Lead Role (Male) for his performance in Chayanika Chowdhury's 'Bishwoshundori'. The actor's web film, 'Taan' also brought him immense praise. We caught up with Siam to know about his excitement after winning the National Film Award.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI
SAMADDAR

How are you feeling after winning the National Film Award?

To be honest, I feel quite speechless. My family was overjoyed when the awards were announced. My wife was really proud. I have been getting calls from my friends from the industry. As this is my first National Award, it has inspired me to pay attention to even the minor details when selecting a role.

Share some of your experiences from the sets of 'Bishwoshundori'.

The name "Bishwoshundori", at first glance, suggests that the film is all about glamour and fame. However, it highlights the beautiful relationship between a mother and son. For any child, their mother is the prettiest person in the world, and that is the



PHOTO: COLLECTED

idea we worked on.

Champa Apa, who played my mother, was like a parental figure to me on the sets. Both of us were very emotional after we shot the climax, as we truly felt like our characters. She inspired me to keep working hard.

My wife Abonty was expecting a surgery while I was shooting in Nilgiri for the film. I did not want the team to suffer and kept working. However, I had to be on calls between shots with my family, seeking updates on Abonty's condition.

My family was by my side and my wife was determined to not let me compromise on my work for her. The National Award is for

them.

The release of your film, 'Shaan', was halted due to the outbreak of Omicron. When can we expect the film in theatres?

We are planning to release the film during Eid. We want to reach the maximum number of audiences, and Eid is a good time for that kind of response.

You web film, 'Taan' earned wide appreciation. Are you looking forward to more such projects in the future?

I was waiting for the audiences' feedback and now that they have accepted and appreciated my work on an OTT platform, I will surely consider offers.

I am already in talks for a few productions, and each new role brings about a thrill in me. I still approach each project with the excitement of a newcomer, and hope that adds more accountability to my work.

What are you currently busy with?

I am taking a short break. However, we will resume shooting for "Antarjal". I will also be filming a song for "Operation Sundarban", which we hope to release on Eid-ul-Adha.

Deepika working on father Prakash Padukone's biopic

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Deepika Padukone recently confirmed that she is working on her father, ace badminton player Prakash Padukone's biopic.

The actress further shared that her father represented India globally even before the country's victory in the 1983 Cricket World Cup. She shared that if her father had better facilities available, he would have been much superior in the badminton world.

Prakash Padukone was one of the first Indian athletes to put India on the global map.

After "Gehraiyaan", Deepika hopes to start shooting for "The Intern" remake with Amitabh Bachchan by this year, or early 2023.

TOFFEE STAR SEARCH winners announced

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Talent hunt show "Toffee Star Search" announced winners of their first season at a grand finale. Taimur Rahman, Acting CEO, Banglalink, along with other top officials of Banglalink, were present.

Mohima Dev Thrayee, a participant from the music category, was announced as the champion of the first season. She was awarded a crest and BDT 25 lakh as prize money.

Eshan Dey and Sadman Khan, two other participants from the music category, were announced as the first and second runners-up, respectively. They received crests and BDT 15 lakh and BDT 10 lakh.

Tariq Anam Khan, Purnima, and Chanchal Chowdhury announced the names of the winners.

The jury included Zinat Sanu Swagata, Khayam Sanu

Sandhi, Nirab, Shafayet Mansoor and Abu Hayat Mahmud. Prominent bands AvoidRafa and Joler Gaan performed with the participants.



PHOTO: COURTESY

COUNTRYWIDE

Forest robbers destroy 5,000 trees

Forest Department files GD; No action yet

SOHRAB HOSSAIN, Patuakhali

A gang has been mindlessly lifting earth from a reserve forest in Gangamati area adjacent to Kuakata sea beach in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali.

In the process, the plunderers are destroying the trees including the newly-planted ones. So far, they have ravaged around 5,000 trees creating a deep pond-shaped ditch on an acre of the forest land.

The forest department has filed a general diary (GD) with Mahipur Police Station mentioning the names of three forest robbers.

Abul Kalam Azad, Mahipur range officer in Kalapara upazila of Patuakhali Coastal Forest Department, lodged the GD on February 3.

In the GD, the forest official mentioned that Shafizul Islam, 55, of Char Chapli area adjacent to Kuakata, Jamal Hossain, 48, of Sirajpur area and Md Rabbi, 45, of Alipur area were extracting and

selling soil from the reserved forest of Char Chapli area.

At the same time, they have destroyed around 5,000 trees from one acre of mangrove forest which was created on 50 hectares of land in 2020-21. They were also destroying 50 to 60-year-old trees with excavator machines.

The gang has caused extensive damage to the forest. In the complaint, it has also been mentioned that if the officials and employees of the forest department try to prevent the gang, they will be intimidated and threatened with death.

Mahipur Police Station Sub-Inspector (SI) Mahub Alam Khan sent a prayer to the Kalapara Senior Judicial Magistrate's Court on February 4 seeking permission to investigate and take action regarding the GD. Mahipur Police Station Officer-In-Charge (OC) Khandaker Mohammad Abul Khair said necessary steps will be taken subject to investigation upon receiving the court order.

Contacted, Assistant Forest Conservator of Patuakali Forest Department Md Tariqul Islam said this gang has been involved in the looting of reserve forest trees and soil for a long time. Of the gang, two separate cases have already been filed against Shafizul for looting trees which are under trial in the court.

Lincoln Bayen, Barishal Divisional Coordinator of the Environmental Lawyers Association (BELA), said deforestation and selling soil of the forest land was in no way legal under the Forest and Environment Act. It is against the law to dig a pond inside the forest by destroying the trees.

He also demanded that legal action be taken against those involved in the crime.

Although attempts were taken to contact the main accused Shafizul over the phone, he did not receive the call. The other two alleged robbers - Jamal Hossain and Rabbi - declined to comment over the matter.



A gang of robbers has been illegally extracting soil from a reserve forest in Kalapara's Kuakata area of Patuakhali. In this photo, a crater dug inside the forest by the robbers is seen.

PHOTO: STAR

An outcome of greed and negligence

FROM PAGE 2

As police could not arrest the fugitives for long, the IO applied to the National Identity Registration Wing, Department of Immigration and Passport, Special Branch of Police, and Bangladesh Bank on different dates to track

down the owners of Pearl Trade International.

In November 2020, the IO found that the company had been operating the import business under "Pearl Venture" with a private bank account mentioning an address at 27 Imamganj's Hazi

Mohammad Ali Centre, of which Imtiaz, Jawad, Mozammel, Kashif and Nabil are business partners.

During probe, however, police did not find any such company or shop there.

Investigators also found that the company owners' addresses given by two

banks were not real.

Last year, they arrested manager Mozaffar in July. On his information, they then arrested Mozammel and Nabil in August. Imtiaz was arrested in September, while Kashif and Jawad surrendered on October and December.

Images

FROM PAGE 16

I draw a rifle with bayonet and barrel of Bren gun to indicate a soldier and an open book lying on the ground and a pair of bare feet to indicate the students. This linocut was first exhibited in the exhibition of paintings and photographs held at Burdwan House in 1954 on the occasion of the Second Literary Conference.

Murtaza Bashir actively participated in the Language Movement. His "Roktako Ekushe" is considered the first painting on the Language Movement.

Source: *Amar jibon o omano* by Murtaza Bashir (2014, Bengal Publications)

Translated by Shamsuddoza Sajen

'Vision-2030'

FROM PAGE 16

of migration in Bangladesh, said, "Bangladeshi workers are known to be hardworking in the Gulf country."

He, however, said due to illegal visa trading, many workers in the past found themselves jobless in Saudi Arabia, even though they migrated through the regular channel.

Saiful urged the Bangladesh and Saudi governments to address the issue effectively. The Bangladesh government needs to increase its manpower at the Bangladesh mission in Saudi Arabia to ensure the wellbeing of migrant workers, especially the female, there, he added.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Advertisement for the position of
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR

BIFC Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Limited (BIFC)

is a Public Limited Company and a Non-Bank Financial Institution searching for a competent and dynamic Deputy Managing Director.

Experience Requirements:

- Managerial experienced not less than 18 years of work experience preferably in Bank/NBFI with at least 02 years of experience as EVP/SEVP/DMD/ immediate below position to the Managing Director.
- The leadership role of managing a team of not less than 10 persons of direct reports.
- Good knowledge of accounting, reporting requirements preferably of Bank & Financial Institutions.
- Experienced in controlling activities of finance & accounts function.
- Experience in liaison with External Auditors to close audits or investigations.
- Experience in dealing with crises/ managing challenges.
- Oversee full Audit & Inspection activities conducted by Bangladesh Bank/ other regulatory bodies/External Audit.
- Ensure all activities of the Company align with Company Policy/ Bangladesh Bank Guidelines/Corporate Governance Guidelines/relevant laws, rules and regulations.
- The deserving candidate must be well versed in Credit Management, Capital market operations, Recovery and related legal matters, Negotiation capabilities with different Stakeholders and leadership ability to lead the Company.

Educational Requirements:

- Graduation in any discipline, preferably in Accounting, Finance, Management, Banking, and Business Administration from any reputed educational institution(s)
- Part/ full qualified Chartered Accountant or CMA.

General Conditions:

- Age not over 55 years as of March 13, 2022.
- Excellent presentation and communication skills in both Bangle and English

Salary & Allowances: As per policy of the Company

Apply Procedure

Interested professionals are requested to forward their CV attaching passport size photograph (1 copy) to the Head of Human Resources Department, Bangladesh Industrial Finance Company Limited, Head Office Police Plaza Concord (Tower-2), Level-8, Plot # 02, Road# 144, Gulshan, Dhaka-1212 within **March 13, 2022.**