



Mosharraf Karim in 'Mukhosh'.

The audience will decide if they like 'Mukhosh': Mosharraf Karim

When I am playing a character, I tend to get into it, and forget about the surroundings.

ZAHID AKBAR

Mosharraf Karim, Pori Moni and Ziaul Roshan starrer "Mukhosh" released this week in 38 cinema halls. The film is Eftakhar Suvo's debut directorial. The Daily Star caught up with the actor, as he spoke about his expectations towards the film and more.

You were not spotted at the promotions of "Mukhosh". Why so?
Due to my busy schedule, I could not participate physically in any promotional

activities. However, I did promote the film through social media. I will say that I did the best I could, within the limited time that I could spare.

How did you like the film?
It is the audience that will ultimately judge the film. My ultimate focus is always to put in the best performance that I can.

I will say that I am satisfied and happy with my work in this project.

Why do you think the audience should watch the film?
I think the story is very intriguing, and this

is why the audience will be attracted towards the film. Although it is the director's debut film, he has shown that he is extremely skilled in his craft.

Filmmakers often complain that you are unreachable over the phone. How would you explain that?
When I am playing a character, I tend to get into it, and forget about the surroundings. I hope that people will understand the fact that most of the time, it is not possible for me to keep in touch, as I do my duties with utmost concentration.

'No Dorai' director Angshu's debut web series in the works



Khairul Basar, Ziaul Hoque Polash and Tanim Rahman Angshu. PHOTOS: COLLECTED

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

National Award-winning filmmaker Tanim Rahman Angshu's debut web series "Tirondaj" is in the works.

Under the banner of Alpha i, the five-episode show will feature Ziaul Hoque Polash and Khairul Basar along with Rothshi Siddika.

"The story focuses on the world of showbiz," says the "No Dorai" famed director.

"It is about two emerging artistes who fall into a professional trap. It also showcases the bond between journalists and artistes."

Polash will play a fashion world mobster, while Khairul Basar will play a journalist.

The show is expected to air exclusively on Bioscope around the last week of March.

Alia Bhatt takes cinemas by storm with 'Gangubai Kathiawadi'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Alia Bhatt's latest film, "Gangubai Kathiawadi", directed by Sanjay Leela Bhansali, is soaring high at the box office. It was released on February 25, 2022.

The success of the film is also a win for Bollywood itself, which is attempting to return cinemas to glory after a two-year struggle with the pandemic.

In a week, "Gangubai Kathiawadi" managed to make Rs 68.93 crore, becoming the third highest-grossing first-weekend film during post-pandemic times in India. "Sooryavanshi" has the top spot in this regard with Rs 120.66 crore, while "83" earned Rs 71.87 crore.

On March 4, the official Instagram account of Bhansali Productions shared a poster of "Gangubai Kathiawadi", and said that the film has grossed Rs 108.3 crores worldwide.

COUNTRYWIDE

Inefficiency in road renovation

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Carpeting got damaged of a paved road stretching from Bijaya of Joychandi union in Kulaura upazila to Kapnapahar Road of Juri upazila even before the completion of the work.

Locals stopped the work alleging the use of substandard materials in the renovation work.

Locals Sirajul Islam and MI Murshed said works on the road started just days ago. Due to use of low-quality materials, part of the carpeting is being rubbed off.

According to Moulvibazar Roads and Highways (RHD) office, the length of the road from Gazipur-Vijaya-Clevedon in Kulaura to Kapnapahar in Juri upazila is 15-km. The road remained in a battered condition with big potholes for long.

Contractors Kamruzzaman Shyamal and Akbar Ali were given the work order for repairing 1400 metres of the 15-km road at a cost of around Tk 45 lakh. Work started on February 8, and is



PHOTO: STAR

expected to be completed within a month.

Abdul Ahad said the potholes of the road were being filled with low-quality bitumen.

Local residents Abdul Gaffar and Enamul Islam said, "We informed the men employed by the contractor. But they didn't pay heed to our words and continued to work with sheer negligence."

"So, we got upset and told the workers not to dump the mixture of stones and bitumen on the road. Later, the contractor's men stopped the work and took away the equipment," they said.

Asked about this, Kamruzzaman Shyamal, contractor of the work, said the work was stopped due to the objections of the locals.

Roads and Highways Department Moulvibazar office executive engineer Zia Uddin said the engineer in charge has given me a report about the work. The work has gone bad due to the mistakes of inexperienced workers in engineering work. No leniency will be shown on the quality of work.

"If the work is poor quality, the contractor is bound to do the work again. The contractor has been strictly instructed to do the work properly," he said.



Hired labourers cutting off topsoil using excavator from a cropland at Badda village in Tangail's Kalihati upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

Topsoil removal from cropland goes unabated

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Cutting of topsoil from croplands is still going on unabatedly at different places in Tangail, leaving a harmful impact on fertility of land.

A section of greedy earth traders is cutting off the topsoil from the farmlands after buying the top layer from the land owners.

The syndicate has been selling the earth mostly to the brick kiln owners and also to others for different purposes, including filling of low lands and constructing earthen roads.

The ill practice is damaging the fertility of the lands as well as destroying environment and ecological balance.

Fertility of cropland is reduced to a great extent and production declines due to cutting the top layer, agriculturists said.

Shakil Ahmed Shuvo, an agriculture entrepreneur and also a masters' student at Bangladesh Agriculture University, said usually our crops root depth is 15cm where all essential nutrition elements remain.

"Once the topsoil is removed from the cropland, it puts adverse effect on productivity of the land," Shuvo said.

However, the illegal activity is going on in all the 12 upazilas of the district, defying the law.

Moreover, the earth traders are also flattening hillocks of red soil at many places in Ghatail, Mirzapur and Sakhipur upazilas and destroying the precious natural asset.

They are also cutting off soil from the banks of different rivers, increasing risk of erosion during the monsoon.

Alongside decline in crop production, local environment is being polluted by the dust.

Meanwhile, rampant movement of earth-laden heavy vehicles is also causing damages to the rural roads.

Local people cannot resist the ill practice learning consequence from the earth traders as most of them are influential people having political clout.

A section of public representatives is also involved with them, locals alleged.

During a recent visit, this correspondent saw labourers were

cutting off topsoil using excavator from a cropland at Badda village in Kalihati upazila to send the earth to local brick kilns.

Moreover, workers were cutting off earth from a hillock in Moricha Paikpara area in the upazila, changing class of the land.

Locals informed that earth traders, backed by a member of local union parishad, cutting off the highlands.

Sources at Agriculture Department Office said the district has 2, 43,647 hectares of croplands. Of the land, several hundred acres are being damaged every year due to removal of topsoil.

Besides, more than 250 brick kilns are currently running operations in the district and most of those are at Mirzapur and Ghatail upazilas.

Cutting earth from the croplands and hillocks for producing bricks is prohibited in Burning of Bricks Control Act 1989 (Revised in 2013).

In order to get the license, brick kiln owners have to submit an affidavit to the Deputy Commissioner (DC), mentioning

the places from where they would collect earth. But, due to lack of proper monitoring, earth is being collected from different places, including croplands.

Agriculturist Abu Adnan, also a training officer at Agriculture Department, said the surface soil layer, up to 15cm, contains organic materials, while the high fertile land contains microorganism.

Deputy Director at Tangail Directorate of Environment (DoE) Jamir Uddin said permission from the local administration is a must for cutting earth for brick kilns.

Mirzapur Assistant Commissioner (Land) Jubayer Hossain said there are 258 villages in the upazila and it is very difficult to monitor the illegal practice.

Shoyeb Mahmud, an upazila agriculture officer, said after the topsoil is removed from croplands it took about 20 years to get the fertility back.

Firoz Haider Khan, president of Tangail brick kiln owners' association, said they face various problems for collecting earth and they need a good solution for it.