



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

# ‘I found Farukh Ahmed endlessly fascinating’

## Shatabdi Wadud opens up about his character in ‘Nikhoj’



Shatabdi Wadud as Farukh Ahmed in ‘Nikhoj’.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Award-winning actor Shatabdi Wadud has etched his name in the world of theatre, TV, and films. The “Guerilla” actor was widely appreciated last year for his diverse roles in the movies, “Nonajoler Kabbo” and “Mission Extreme”. He has also completed shooting for Aruna Biswas’s “Oshombhob.”

His web series, “Nikhoj”, releases on Chorki today. In a candid interview with The Daily Star, the noted actor talks about working on the project, and more.

**Tell us about your character in ‘Nikhoj’.**

“Nikhoj” centers on a middle-class household and how the disappearance of the head of the family, Farukh Ahmed, disrupts their life. I play Farukh Ahmed in the series.

It is a contemporary story, focusing on the aftermath of a person going missing, and how it creates a sense of helplessness

within a family. I found Farukh Ahmed endlessly fascinating.

**How was the experience of working with a young director for this series?**

Reehan Rahman is exceptionally talented. It is not easy to work with such a huge list of stars, but he was able to complete the project with great ease. We are really happy with the outcome.

**You have been a part of the popular theatre troupe Prachyanat for a long time. What truly draws you towards theatre?**

Prachyanat holds a special place in my heart, and theatre is my first love. I can’t live without performing on stage. I was actively involved with theatre, even prior to working with the troupe.

**What are your dreams and expectations regarding films?**

I want to leave behind a legacy that inspire future generations, when it comes to cinema. I want to play challenging and memorable roles.



## Films to look forward to this Eid

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Two Shakib Khan-starrer films, “Golui” and “Bidrohi”, will be released this Eid-ul-Fitr. The makers have already finalised the screenings with 15 halls and are in talks with 20 more theatres across the nation. His film, “Antaratma” is also awaiting release.

On the other hand, after postponing the release a couple of times, M Raahim’s “Shaan” is finally set to hit the theatres this Eid. The hall bookings for this production is already in progress.

Six halls have already booked their slots for “Shaan”. They are: Shyamoli (Dhaka), Shapla (Rangpur), Chandrima (Ashulia), Nabin (Manikganj), Shankha (Khulna), and Chayabani (Mymensingh).

## Kareena to make OTT debut with Sujoy Ghosh’s Netflix film

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Kareena Kapoor is set to make her OTT debut with a Sujoy Ghosh directorial. The Netflix original film will also feature actors Jaideep Ahlawat and Vijay Varma.

The murder mystery is based on “The Devotion of Suspect X”, a 2005 Japanese bestseller. The title of the project is yet to be announced.

Reportedly, shooting for the production is expected to begin from this month.



# NEWS

## Khaleda can be allowed to stay

FROM PAGE 16  
Responding to another question, he said, “She will not be able to go abroad.”

He also said he had sent the relevant files with his opinion to the home ministry, which would issue a notification to this effect.

He added the government released the BNP chief after suspending her jail sentence as per section 401

(1) of the Criminal Code of Procedure.

Khaleda was freed from jail on March 25, 2020, after the government suspended her jail sentence for six months, at a time when the world was grappling with the Covid-19 pandemic.

The former premier landed in jail on February 8, 2017, after being sentenced to a five-year imprisonment by a special court in Dhaka in the Zia Orphanage Trust

graft case.

On October 30 the following year, the High Court enhanced her punishment to 10 years after dismissing her appeal in the case.

Khaleda was convicted by another special court in Dhaka in the Zia Charitable Trust corruption case on October 29, 2018, in which she was sentenced to seven-year rigorous imprisonment by the court.

## Torrid traffic continues

FROM PAGE 16  
The college in Bakshi Bazar by 9:00am, the time her exam was supposed to start.

“By the time I reached, I was 25 minutes late. I could not finish the exam as per my expectation,” said Rima.

On the way back, she could only reach the halfway point after two hours. “I usually reach home by 12:30pm if

I start from my college at 11:00am and take a bus from Shahbagh. It’s 1:30pm and I am stuck at Farmgate.”

Zannatul Fedous Lamia, a third-year student of Asia Pacific University in the Farmgate area, said she had to walk to Mirpur-13 from Mirpur-14 to get into a bus as the road was gridlocked.

“I had to wait around 30 more minutes more to get

into a bus,” she said.

Many blamed the ongoing development work of metro rail and haphazard road work for exacerbating the problem. A huge number were seen walking to their destinations after waiting in vain for buses.

Photos and posts regarding the traffic nightmare flooded social media all day yesterday,

many seeking updates of the situation before daring to venture out.

Monibur Rahman, additional police commissioner (traffic) of Dhaka Metropolitan Police, said the main cause of jams centring Gulshan, Mohakhali and Moghbazar areas was the election of Dhaka Zila Bus Minibus Sarak Paribahan Samik

Union.

He said due to the election at Mohakhali bus terminal, transport workers were coming through buses from different areas. They had parked buses on both sides of the road which increased traffic congestion.

“We addressed the matter and cleared the road around 1:30pm,” he said.

## Ancient tombs found

FROM PAGE 16  
of the original 13th-century rood screen – an architectural element separating the altar area from the nave.

During a visit by AFP on Tuesday, archaeologists were delicately cleaning and excavating the sculptures emerging from the ground, including a pair of carved hands.

The bust of a bearded man and some sculpted

vegetables, with traces of paint still visible, had been removed.

The team has already used a mini endoscopic camera to peek inside the sarcophagus, which appeared to be warped by the weight of the earth and stones.

“You can glimpse pieces of fabric, hair and above all a pillow of leaves on top of the head, a well-known phenomenon when religious

leaders were buried,” said Christophe Besnier, the lead archaeologist.

“The fact that these plant elements are still inside means the body is in a very good state of conservation,” he added.

Its discovery will help improve our understanding of funeral practices in the Middle Ages, added Dominique Garcia of the National Institute of Archaeological Research.

## Now 4 months after

FROM PAGE 1  
About whether the government has any plans to inoculate primary school students, Maleque said they would if and once the WHO recommends.

Amid the emergence of the coronavirus’s Omicron variant, the government started giving booster doses on December 28.

As of yesterday, around 53 lakh people received their booster doses, while 9cr received second doses and 12.62cr first doses.

“We have administered

around 22cr jabs in total. If we can give 3.25cr by March 31, the total number will reach 25cr – higher than our target of inoculating 70 percent of the population with double-dose vaccines.”

The minister also said the country is recently witnessing zero Covid-19 deaths due to the vaccination coverage.

The health directorate yesterday reported no Covid-19 deaths for the second consecutive day. The total number of new cases was 182.

## Bangladesh, KSA to work

FROM PAGE 16  
support in the resolution of the Rohingya refugee crisis, including their repatriation and justice.

During the last years, Riyadh requested Dhaka to issue passports to some 60k Rohingyas in Saudi Arabia. Whether this issue was raised at the consultation was not known.

There are Saudi companies already present in Bangladesh with several billion dollars of direct investment. And, more than 20 companies are interested to invest.

He also suggested launching a joint business forum and exchange of business delegations between the two countries to support bilateral trade and business.

The areas of investment identified include IT, agro-production, renewable energy, tourism and hospitality.

Momen said Bangladesh would provide all sorts of facilities if the Saudi companies invest here.

Momen said KSA took an initiative of planting 50 billion saplings in the

Middle East. “We said we want to take part in it – supply plants and in maintenance,” he said.

Faisal assured that all the procedures of Hajj visas would be done in Bangladesh to minimise harassment of the Hajjis.

Meanwhile, during the meeting between Hasina and the Saudi minister, the PM hoped that Saudi investors would avail the opportunities as her government was establishing 100 special economic zones, reports UNB.

## India restores all valid visas

FROM PAGE 16  
their trip.

So the news of the resumption of regular flights from March 27 has brought a huge sigh of relief to them.

If the fare is not unaffordable, there is another problem: seats are not available, as Rupali Rupa, an associate professor of Jagannath University, found out recently.

She needed to fly to Kolkata to attend a conference but could not manage a ticket due to high demand.

“There are so many passengers who want to go to India for different reasons,” said Mazharul

Haque Bhuiyan, the immediate past secretary-general of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh, when asked about the scarcity and the abnormally high price of air tickets to India.

With the airlines are operating a limited number of flights under the air bubble agreement, there is not much that can be done.

“Hopefully, things will return to normal with the resumption of regular flights,” he added.

Novoair, which operated two flights daily to Kolkata before the pandemic, said it will restart flights to Kolkata from March 27 after a long pause.

Biman Bangladesh Airlines and US-Bangla have also decided to increase flights to different routes in India.

Meanwhile, Indian Railway on Tuesday gave the proposal following Bangladesh Railway’s (BR) letter to resume passenger train service, which has remained suspended since March 2020.

“We will take a decision in this regard after holding a meeting soon,” Sardar Shahadat Ali, additional director general (operations) of Bangladesh Railway, told The Daily Star yesterday.

More than 3,500 Bangladeshis travel to India per day on average.

## Daughter calls for a DNA test

FROM PAGE 1  
Hasina, read Harris was admitted to the Evercare Hospital under the name Mahamudur Rahman, and there he died of Covid on September 3 last year.

It said the hospital issued a death certificate to the name of Mahamudur Rahman that he took to conceal his real identity. He was then laid to rest on a madrasa premises in Savar.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the letter, which mentions Samira as the sender and daughter of Harris. But the newspaper could not reach the sender

or any family member of Harris.

The letter further read Samira had already written to the home ministry and sent copies to the law enforcement agency concerned, urging them to collect her DNA samples to perform any necessary test to confirm the identity of the deceased.

It urged the authorities to permit burial of his father’s remains at the family’s own burial ground in Kanaighat of Sylhet.

Asked what action the Criminal Investigation Department is considering

following the letter, CID chief Additional Inspector General Mahbubur Rahman yesterday said, “It is a legal issue and we cannot take any action based on any open letter.”

He added, “We will look into the matter if it comes following due procedure. ... She can go to the court and if the court directs us, we will definitely look into it.”

Replying to queries at a press briefing in the city, AKM Hafiz Akter, additional deputy commissioner (Detective Branch) of DMP, said, “Investigation is underway

and once it ends, we will be able to say if it was Harris or not.”

Harris was the political secretary of former prime minister Khaleda Zia and a convicted fugitive in the August 21 grenade attack case. In May 2007, an anti-graft tribunal sentenced him to three years’ imprisonment for not submitting wealth statement to the Anti-Corruption Commission. He was also sentenced to seven years in prison in the Zia Charitable Trust graft case.

On January 11 this year, various media outlets ran reports on Harris’s death

quoting his daughter and based on a Facebook post of his cousin Ashiq Chowdhury that claimed the BNP leader passed away.

A day later, the National Central Bureau at the Police Headquarters wrote to the CID on January 12, asking it to investigate whether Harris was dead.

Amid the police investigation, a newspaper reported that Harris was admitted to the Evercare Hospital as Mahamudur Rahman with Covid complications and died there.