



“The industry will not grow if we sit and complain”

NUHASH HUMAYUN

SADI MOHAMMAD SHAHNEWAZ

Nuhash Humayun loves making “weird stuff”, as he jokingly phrases it. However, he is objectively one of the most open-to-experiment directors of our time. He recently won the Midnight Shorts Jury Award at the SXSW Film Festival for his film “Moshari”, and is now making headlines with his ambitious series, “Pett Kata Shaw” on Chorki, which releases today.

We talk to the director, who is currently residing in LA, about his latest project, and thoughts on the industry.

Tell us about “Pett Kata Shaw”. “Pett Kata Shaw” is an anthology of supernatural stories based on our folklore, I would not call it horror, per se.

They contain psychological and paranormal layers – ghost stories that explore the human condition. Your take on our folklore is certainly interesting. What made you portray it? I think ghosts in Bengali culture are different from the horror films that we see in western media. Jinns, Petnis and various creatures, we seem to have a special connection to them. Stories of darkness

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teach us light, and stories of fear teach us courage. Like our language, I felt our folklores should be preserved, and thus set out on portraying them in my own style. “E Building E Meye Nishedh”, “Loke Bole”, “Mishiti Kichu” and “Nishir Daak” all have interesting casting. They do indeed. We have veterans like Chanchal Chowdhury and Afzal Hossain

working together for the very first time, as well as Shohel Rana, Morshed Mishu, Masuda Khan, Shirin Akter Shela and Pritom Hasan. You wrote, directed and edited “Moshari”. How did the triumph in the SXSW Film Festival feel like? The jury win of “Moshari” is a culmination of all the voices, pessimists, cynics that I did not listen to. It’s me and my team listening to our inner child. The win was significant, to say the least, and it means so much to Asians around the world. We are not very well represented in media, especially in this genre. What do you think is your future in the industry, given that you like to experiment so much? After “Sincerely Yours Dhaka” went to Busan many thought I’d venture into arthouse films for good. I’ve had local filmmakers scoff at me when I said my next project is a pop music video, at that time. I’ve since done a cooking show, a drama, a horror short, and even a bathroom cleaning product commercial – but all with my personal touch. The industry will not grow if we just sit and complain. Someone has to go out there and make new and weird stuff, like I do!

Rezwana Choudhury Bannya, Shwapnil Shojib’s music film releasing on Bengali New Year

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Renowned Rabindra Sangeet exponent Rezwana Choudhury Bannya and popular singer Shwapnil Shojib, along with 50 chorus singers, have come together for the music film “Mongolbarota”. It will be released on Dhruba Music Station on the occasion of the Bengali New Year. The musical compilation is a concoction of Rabindranath Tagore’s “Sokatore Oi Kadiche Sokole” and English poet and Anglican clergyman John Newton’s hymn “Amazing Grace”. Popular reality show Saregama- famed Saikat Biswas Goblo has composed the music while Shubhbrabrata Sarkar has directed the video. The song is produced by Dhruba Guha, and conceptualised by Shwapnil Shojib.

‘I haven’t been on the internet in four and a half years’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK



Celebrated singer Selena Gomez addressed her personal thoughts surrounding her social media hiatus, as well as its impact, during a Good Morning America appearance. “I haven’t been on the internet in four and a half years. It has changed my life completely,” she said. She dubbed it akin to therapy and admitted it has been an amazing way to cope with mental health woes. “I am happier, I am more present, I connect more with people,” she added. “I understand how powerful the internet is, and in so many ways, it’s done the best things for the world. But for me, to get my news that is actually important I get through people in my life.”

NEWS

Khaleda home after tests

FROM PAGE 12 suggested taking her abroad for better treatment but the government was denying the permission. Asked, he said, “When chairperson [Khaleda] went to the court, she went on foot. Her physical condition has reached such a level now that she cannot move without a wheelchair.” The medical professional said Khaleda sought the prayers of the people for

her recovery and also expressed gratitude to her party leaders and activists. Khaleda went from her house to Evercare Hospital for some tests and then she was taken back to her house yesterday. Khaleda has been diagnosed with liver cirrhosis recently. She has long been suffering from arthritis, diabetes, as well as dental and eye problems. She was admitted to

the hospital on November 13 and moved to the CCU on the following day, nearly a week after she was discharged from the same healthcare facility. Khaleda was sent to jail on February 8, 2018, in a corruption case. Due to the coronavirus pandemic, she was given a temporary release on certain conditions on March 25 last year. The term of her release has been extended four times so far.

His stance against

FROM PAGE 12 Thailand, and Canada, Rab said, quoting Ashish. The High Court in 2003 stayed the proceedings of the trial. The stay was withdrawn on February 27 this year. The accused was working for a reputed organisation and had worked for several other firms, including at two airlines, he added. Replying to another query, the Rab official said Ashish told Rab that he was in Canada for four-five years after the murder; he travelled to the UAE, the US and Thailand and met other accused in the case

there. Of the nine accused, only Tariq Sayeed Mamun is now in jail. Among the other accused, Adnan Siddiqui and Faruque Abbasi are now on bail while Aziz, Bunty, Emon, businessman Selim Khan and Leather Liton are on the run. A Dhaka court yesterday asked the inspector general of police to produce evidence seized by law enforcers in the case and also asked the registrar general of the Supreme Court to produce the case docket by April 17 following two petitions filed by the prosecutors.

Lanka

FROM PAGE 12 Lanka’s crippling economic crisis risks starvation across the nation of 22 million. “We are told this is the worst crisis, but I think this is just the beginning,” Mahinda Yapa Abeywardana said at the start of a two-day debate on the economic woes. After Fernando’s speech in parliament, nearly 200 doctors marched down a road in Colombo, chanting slogans against the government. Some held a banner saying: “Strengthen people’s right to live. Declare a health emergency.”

Rejoinder and our reply

FROM PAGE 12 the last two years. As the land was left unoccupied for an extended period, some local miscreants who are opposed to foreign investment started putting undue pressure and tried to spoil the process by hiring goons who threatened dire consequences if their demanded amount was not paid. Moreover in the darkness of night, they removed the boundary pillars of the land, stole huge barbed wire. It should also be

mentioned here that these lands are nonagricultural and char-sandy areas that remain inundated for 4-5 months a year. A certificate from department of agriculture & UP chairman office in this regard are attached herewith. OUR REPLY The report was based on allegations of the farmers. The Daily Star talked with different farmers in the area and recorded their comments. The agitated farmers submitted complaints to Pabna deputy

commissioner’s office and also to the local lawmaker about grabbing their land. The Daily Star obtained a copy of the complaint filed submitted to the DC office. The Daily Star also talked with other people including local UP chairman, former chairman and the company’s legal adviser and published key points of their comments too. The deputy commissioner formed a probe committee to investigate the allegations of farmers. We stand by our story.

Teacher in jail, family in fear

FROM PAGE 12 night, the school’s office assistant, Md Asad Miah, filed the case for “demeaning religion”. In the meantime, a mobile phone recording of the classroom conversation was circulated among locals. “We have long been facing troubles from some unruly students. They used to stalk my husband on roads and even in classroom. Besides, some people would often kick our doors and knock on our windows and flee,” said Babita. Usually, students are not allowed to enter classrooms with mobile phones. “So, how could someone record the conversation,” she

questioned? “My husband did not make any derogatory comments over Islam. He was framed in a planned way. A vested quarter is conspiring to benefit by inciting students.” She also demanded immediate release of her husband citing that he is physically ill and needs regular medication. Hriday’s lawyer Ajoy Chakraborty, also the president of the district lawyers’ association, said, “We have filed petitions twice seeking his bail. But the petitions were rejected. We will seek his bail again during the next hearing on April 10.”

He added, “In the FIR, police intentionally incorporated a section on demeaning religion.” Samor Ghosh, president of Munshiganj district unit of Bangladesh Puja Uddipan Parishad, said, “Hriday is innocent. Some people might have conspired against him and provoked the students.” Jamal Uddin, another teacher of the school, said, “Hriday is a peace-loving guy. There were no allegations against him in the past. I also don’t know how could a student carry mobile phone in the classroom.” Contacted, school’s office assistant Md Asad Miah said, “I have filed the

case as per directives of the school authorities.” Headmaster Md Alauddin Ahmed said a group of students filed a complaint on March 20 afternoon alleging that Hriday made derogatory comments on Islam. “The next morning, we served a show-cause notice upon him. But students started demonstrating on March 22 morning. On information, police came and detained him,” he said. The Daily Star has found that a tenth grader recorded the conversation on his mobile phone. “There was a discussion on science and religion in our class. At one stage, he

[Hriday] made derogatory comments on Islam,” he told The Daily Star. About the agitations on March 22, he said, “We were in class that day. Some of my friends and outsiders came to us and took us to the protest. I don’t know the outsiders. But they are locals.” Md Mizanur Rahman, investigation officer of the case and sub-inspector of Munshiganj Sadar Police Station, said, “We have got an audio clip of the conversation between the teacher and the students. But we did not find the allegation brought against him to be true. We will submit the charge sheet shortly.”

Tipu’s aide hired hitman, armed him

FROM PAGE 12 Akash claimed that he was accused in five politically motivated cases in 2007. “For the cases, my family life was hampered and I had to stay away from my family. Shamim knew it. On March 15-16, Shamim called my number and asked if I would be able to do a job for him. If I can, all my cases will be settled,” said a court source, quoting from the statement. Asked about the job, Shamim told Akash, who knew him for the last nine to 10 years, that the job was to kill a person. A couple of days later, Akash met Shamim at Kamalapur. Then Shamim arranged a phone conversation between Akash and one Musa. “Musa then asked me whether Shamim had briefed me about the job. I replied yes,” the court source said, quoting Akash as saying. “Musa then said he will be timely provided with all the necessary things for the task.” After the phone conversation, Shamim

informed Akash that Musa assigned him to kill Tipu. The decision was made in a meeting at Rupali Club in Kamalapur. Shamim along with Musa, Manik, Damal and four to five others were present there, said Akash in the statement. Getting the task, Shamim talked to Akash. On March 23 evening, Akash went to Kamalapur ICD area with Shamim and met an unknown person aged around 30. The man gave Shamim a blue bag and a motorbike. A pistol was in the bag, said Akash. “In the motorbike, Shamim took me to a hotel at AGB Colony of Motijheel, where Tipu generally sat. But moments later, a text came to Shamim’s phone that Tipu will not be found there,” said Akash. Then Shamim with Akash went to Goran area and returned the bike and the pistol to the man, from whom those had been collected. The next day, on March 24, the bike and the pistol were collected again from

the man. Shamim drove the bike and took Akash to AGB Colony. From there, they started following Tipu’s microbus. When the car reached Shahjahanpur’s Amtala Signal, Shamim took position beside a median from the wrong side. Akash then got down from the bike and started opening fire on Tipu who was in a microbus that got stuck in a traffic jam, said the court source, quoting Akash as saying. Tipu and Prity, a student who happened to be on a rickshaw next to the microbus, were killed. After the incident, Shamim along with Akash again went to Goran area and returned the pistol and the motorbike to the man. “Five to six minutes later, Shamim fled. I also called my friend Sohel, who had a car. In the car, I went to Bogura,” said Akash. “For the task, Shamim or Musa did not offer me any money but they assured me that they would pay all the money needed to settle all the five cases filed

against me,” he said in his statement. Shamim told him that Musa wanted to take control on illegal businesses in Motijheel in support of top criminals Jisan and Manik, Akash said while giving his statement before the court about the reasons behind Tipu murder. Besides, Tipu was also giving support to the family of slain Rizvy Hasan to continue the proceedings into his murder case in which Musa was a charge-sheeted accused. Musa wanted to stop the case, said Akash in the court. Detectives said they were now looking for Shamim and the firearm used in killing Tipu. They added that after arresting Shamim, they would be able to know why Shamim was involved in Tipu murder. Contacted, Md Sony, brother-in-law of Shamim, told this newspaper that they were surprised to hear that Shamim was involved in the murder as he was an aide of Tipu.

India’s FM

FROM PAGE 12 out, all sides should maintain restraint and avoid baseless accusations,” he told reporters at a regular press briefing. Pope Francis condemned “the massacre of Bucha” and kissed a Ukrainian flag sent from the town. The US targeted Russian banks and elites with a new package of sanctions yesterday that includes banning any American from investing in Russia, after Washington and Kyiv accused Moscow of committing war crimes in Ukraine, reports Reuters. The new sanctions will put full blocking sanctions in Russia’s Sberbank SBER. MM, which holds one-third of Russia’s total banking assets, and Alfabank, a senior US official told reporters. The US is also sanctioning Russian President Vladimir Putin’s adult daughters, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov’s wife and daughter, and members of Russia’s security council, the official added.