



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## With age, I have learned to adapt

Azizul Hakim

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Prominent actor Azizul Hakim has won the hearts of millions over the years with his remarkable performances in theatre, television and films. In a chat with the Daily Star, the 'Redrum' actor talks about his film "Golui", upcoming ventures, and more.

**You used to play protagonists on TV, but we see you in supporting roles now. How was the transition?**

I am really okay with that, as I love the craft. When I was young, I used to play the role of the protagonist more often than not. I still have the scope to experiment with various roles and characters. I am older now, and I have learned to adapt. I am getting roles according to my age, and I am perfectly fine with that.

You see, unlike other professions, there is no 'retirement' or 'age barrier' in this industry in the conventional sense.

**Are you excited about the release of your film "Golui"?**

"Golui" will be released this Eid, and its teaser has been widely appreciated by the fans. I am playing the role of Shakib Khan's uncle, who teaches him the art of playing flute and dhol. The character is really interesting, and I request the fans to watch the film in the cinema halls.

**How does it feel, returning to theatre after such a long time?**

I started my career in theatres with Aranyak Natyadal through the drama "Ora Kodom Ali". After that, I became inactive in theatre, due to my busy schedules on TV.

However, I have returned to the stage with Masum Reza directorial "Joy Joyonti" at Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. I have also acted in another drama last week by Masum Reza as well.

**What are you working on right now?**

I am currently busy shooting for television. I have started shooting for Brindabon Das' serial "Karim & Sons" in Pubail, Gazipur. I am playing the role of the eldest son in the series. Apart from that, I am working in "Bokulpur" and "Monkabba" as well.

**Tell us about your earliest memory in acting.**

I started my career with theatre, which doesn't pay much. I got BDT 50 for acting on a play in Chandpur. In 1981, I received my first cheque worth 169 taka for appearing in Afzal Hossain's show "Porichiti". The programme highlighted artistes who were enlisted in BTV during that year. However, my first earning as a professional artiste began when I started working in package series.

Two celebrated films to premiere on TV this Eid

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

The films, "Mission Extreme" and "Raat Jaga Phool", will have their television premieres on Deepo TV, this Eid-Ul-Fitr.

"Mission Extreme", starring Arifin Shuvoo in the lead role, will be televised at 2 pm on Eid day. The next day, Mir Sabbir's "Raat Jaga Phool", will be aired at the same time.

"Mission Extreme" is co-

directed by Sunny Sanwar and Faisal Ahmed.

Apart from Shuvoo, it also stars Taskin Rahman, Jannatul Ferdous Oishee, Sadia Nabil, Sumit Sengupta, and Shatabdi Wadud among others.

The story, dialogues, and screenplay of "Raat Jaga Phool" is written by Mir Sabbir himself.

Apart from him, it also stars Dilara Zaman, Abul Hayat, Sharmili Ahmed, and Fazlur Rahman Babu.



'Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore' hits STAR Cineplex on April 15

ARTS &amp; ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore" is set to release at STAR Cineplex on April 15, 2022. The third instalment in the "Fantastic Beasts" film series, it is directed by David Yates from a screenplay by J K Rowling and Steve Kloves.

The cast includes Eddie Redmayne, Jude Law, Ezra Miller, Dan Fogler, Alison Sudol, Callum Turner, Jessica Williams, Katherine Waterston, and Mads Mikkelsen.

The story follows Albus Dumbledore (Law), who assigns Newt Scamander (Redmayne) and his allies with a mission related to the rising power of the dark wizard, Gellert Grindelwald (Mikkelsen).

## COUNTRYWIDE

### How farmers are doing?

SHYKH SERAJ

March 26 was Bangladesh's 51st anniversary of independence. On this month in 1971, after years of struggles Bangalees went into the battlefield, for the independence of their motherland. I start today's write-up conveying my deepest respect to the father of the nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, under whose courageous leadership we achieved our independence. And also to the martyrs, who sacrificed their lives to liberate the country. The country has become successful in many sectors, especially in the farming sector. I would like to highlight on the issue of how farmers are doing after all these years of independence. A few weeks back, I went to Manikganj for filming Hridoye Mati O Manush (Soil & People in Heart) and learned about the farmers' recent state.

Manikganj is a diverse agricultural region. I went to Khalashipara in Singair upazila. I walked along the village road and saw a home, quite well-built and came to know that it's a farmer's home. In the early 80s, all these houses were clay-made and those have turned into buildings with the growing financial sustainability. A farmer named Sirajul Islam, aged around 65 years, approached me and took me to his backyard. I asked Sirajul how he's doing as a farmer and he replied he's quite happy with everything. "I have been living in this place for the past 24 years. I am a very happy man as all my children are educated," Sirajul said. "Besides mainstream farming, I also fatten two cows every year and sell those during the Eid-ul-Azha. It gives me a lot of financial support," he said. Sirajul, however, said many farmers are now giving their land on lease and stepping away from farming. On a few occasions, the real landowners (farmers) are selling off their land and switching into different professions, said Sirajul. He also talked about the investment in farming and the money comes from abroad as remittance. So, if I summarize Sirajul's thought, a

large chunk of investment comes from those who are not engaged with farming. Some send money from abroad while some others by working at the RMG sector or at different organizations.



PHOTO: HRIDOEY MATI O MANUSH

I left Sirajul's home and went to nearby farmland, which was full of diversity. Bean, eggplant, papaya, banana, spinach, coriander, sweet pumpkin, gourd, maize, paddy are being cultivated on a vast land. Farmer Rajab Ali, who was working in his field, does four crops every year. Rajab believes seed is the most significant agricultural input among all. "As a result of short-duration crop varieties, farmers can cultivate up to four times a year on the same land," Rajab said. Public and private research institutes have played an important role in this regard. A little further, I saw a farmer irrigating with a pump while many more irrigation facilities, both electric and diesel-run pumps, spread across the field. The development in the irrigation system has taken Bangladesh far ahead. Even the hilly lands are now being cultivated through varied irrigation methods.

Farmer Delwar Hossain, who has sown three crops in one land, said the cost of farm labour is increasing every day. Not only their wages have gone up, there are also food costs involved.

Another farmer Dulal Mia, who earns thousands of dollars by only doing eggplant in one bigha land, said educated youths are joining the farming sector and that's a very positive sign.

I also talked to an educated young farmer Sujan Mollah. His farming strategy is a bit more experience, internet-based and quite profitable as well. After completing his studies, he took charge of his father's farming

venture. Sujan does his farming, blending years of experience of his father and using the internet. The digital revolution under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has helped many young people like Sujan.

Farmer Chandan Mondol believes if the middlemen (intermediaries) are reduced from the agricultural marketing system, farmers can gain more profit. They would get fair prices for their produce, Chandan said. Ali Ibrahim, another farmer, raised the issue of brickfields grasping the farmlands. Many farmers across the country said they need support for hassle-free agricultural credit from the public and private banks. Some farmers told me that they need more support from the Sub-Assistant Agricultural Officers (SAAO). Atique, a farmer from Natore, spoke of the most terrible thing. He said some farmers are losing farmlands by selling them off to industrialists. Some farmers are becoming farm labourer on their sold land. What an irony that is! A farmer, who did papaya on 40 decimals land this year, has already sold the land and now doesn't know what to do next year.

Shykh Seraj is Bangladesh's pioneer development journalist. He received country's two highest civilian honours, Swadhinata Puroshkar and Ekushey Padak. At Channel i, he is the founder director. He is also director and host of Channel i's popular agro documentary, Hridoye Mati O Manush.

Those who are initiating large-scale agricultural projects are going to make the best profit for sure. At this point, the traditional farmers might be facing some serious odds. We might also lose the cultural and social heritage of the Bengal, the traditional farming and farmers. We have to concentrate on the traditional farmers, the farming heritage and balance those with the modern farming system and technologies. All the best wishes on the 51st Independence Day of Bangladesh.

### Suspect on the run after injuring 13

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shot in the incident

The police department tweeted that there were "NO active explosive devices at this time."

"Please stay clear of the area" the NYPD tweeted, urging witnesses to contact a police tip line with any information.

The White House said President Joe Biden had

been briefed on the incident and was in communication with New York officials.

New York governor Kathy Hochul tweeted that first responders were on the scene and promised regular updates as the investigation unfolds.

Mass casualty shootings happen with relative frequency in the United States, where firearms are

involved in approximately 40,000 deaths a year, including suicides, according to the Gun Violence Archive website.

Shootings in New York City have risen this year, and the uptick in violent gun crime has been a central focus for Mayor Eric Adams since he took office in January. Through April 3, shooting incidents

rose to 296 from 260 during the same period last year, according to police statistics.

The incident came just a day after US President Joe Biden announced new gun control measures, increasing restrictions on so-called "ghost guns", the difficult-to-trace weapons that can be assembled at home.

### Cost 12 times higher at pvt hospitals

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Covid-19 tests.

The average cost for testing samples (transport, test fees, and other expenses) was Tk 399 at government labs and it was Tk 3,381 at private labs.

The study said although Bangladesh has made

significant progress in providing the first dose of Covid vaccine, it ranks fifth among Saarc countries in providing the full-dose vaccines.

Special efforts to vaccinate the underprivileged and floating people have not

been implemented, except in one or two areas.

Speaking at the event, TIB Executive Director Iftekharuzzaman said the government has a positive attitude towards tackling the Covid crisis.

"However, in terms of good governance, there

are shortcomings in every field. No specific information on how much money was spent on vaccination is being published.

The culture of secrecy is evident. And it is a normal practice to cover up any corruption behind it."

### Grandeur to be replaced by mere building

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construct any building," he said, requesting anonymity.

Abdul Baten, immediate past president of Dhaka Bar Association, said the new building will be constructed with permission from two ministries concerned.

"We will construct the building in phases, following the legal procedures," he said.

He said there are 27,760

lawyers in the association and they do not have any place to sit.

Asked about the HC order, Baten said he had not heard about any such directives.

Contacted, Mayor Taposh said the abandoned building was not recognised as a heritage site by the Department of Archaeology. The decision can be reconsidered if

a responsible authority recognises it as an archaeological site.

#### THE NEELAM GHAR

Originally, the building was named the Nag Bhaban after its owner Kunja Lal Nag. According to documents, the land later came under the custody of the ministry of housing and public works.

At the DC office, after

left the country for India in 1947, the land was marked as an enemy property, said a resident of the building.

Yousuf Aziz Muttaqi, an elderly resident of the area, said when he was a student at St Gregory's High School in 1956, his parents lived on a portion on the first floor of the building for four years.

The ground floor would be used for auctions. "I saw the auctions until 1961."

### Youth arrested for hurting religious feeling

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"He was summoned to Amarbunia Jame Mosque around 4:00pm yesterday [Monday] to face a salish [village arbitration]. At the hearing, he and his father were made to apologise. He was asked to leave the area temporarily," said Ashraful.

However, Amarbunia mosque committee secretary Nurjamal Hawlader, and a local, Ujjal Ashraful, who were present there, thought the resolution was inadequate, he added.

In the evening, several people went to Kaushik's house in Amarbunia village, looking for him.

A local union parishad member, who was there at that moment, asked them to leave... Kaushik got wind of the situation and hid in a fish farm close by," said Ashraful.

Around 8:00pm on Monday, 250 to 300 people stormed Kaushik's house, destroyed it and set fire to a haystack. Later, they attacked a nearby temple. Its door and roof were damaged, said police and eyewitnesses.

On information, police went to the spot and took control of the situation. And Kaushik was taken into police custody, Ashraful said.

The police officer also said 17 people were arrested over the attack, and 20 people were made accused in the case.

Talking to this correspondent, Upazila Nirbahi Officer Jahangir Alam said, "Those who have disrupted peace and order will be identified. The Upazila Parishad will build a new house for the young man's family."