

# OTT over television for AFRAN NISHO

“I have not shot for a single Eid production yet. However, it is not that I am ovoiding television. I have been busy shooting for my OTT projects since last November, and was unable to focus elsewhere. Now that I have a bit of breathing space, I will take up a few projects for my fans this Eid.”

**ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR**

After garnering appreciation for productions like “Chirokal Aaj” and “Punorjonmo”, Afran Nisho has decided to go against the tide this year.

The actor has been seen to take the audience by storm on streaming platforms with his portrayal of Salaam Sharif Babu in Shihab Shaheen’s “Morichika” and Rashed the human lie detector in Vicky Zahed’s “Redrum”. He is now looking forward to two more OTT projects, among others.

We caught up with Nisho to know more about his Eid productions, role preferences, and factors that guide his character choices.

Every Eid, the audience looks forward to your work on television and YouTube. What do you have in store for them this Eid al-Fitr?

I have not shot for a single Eid production yet. However, it is not that I am ovoiding television. I have been busy shooting for my OTT projects since last November, and was unable to focus elsewhere. Now that I have a bit of breathing space, I will take up a few projects for my fans this Eid.

I had previously shot with Kajal Arefin Ome for “Kidnapper” and “Help me”, and Vicky Zahed’s “Champa House”, which will be released this Eid, among some other projects.

The “volume vs quality” debate has always been prevalent in our industry. However, we often forget that both are important. I believe good work is important for us to be remembered. Nevertheless, mass connectivity is also essential.

What OTT projects are on your radar at the moment?

I have finished shooting for Tanim Noor’s Hoichoi original series “Kaiser”, where I will play the titular role. My second Chorki project “Syndicate”, which is also directed by Shihab Shaheen, is currently in post-production.

Alongside television productions, you seem to enjoy working for streaming platforms. What made you choose OTT over television?

While the budget has definitely been a



concern for directors and artistes in this arena, I love the quality of production that OTT platforms offer. Be it the cinematography, the narrative style, or the overall editing and colour grading, OTT productions offer more for the audience to relish on.

There are roles that you do for mass connectivity, and then there are characters that you take up to quench your thirst as an actor. I decided to move towards the latter one for the last 6 months.

**You have redefined the audiences’ perceptions regarding negative characters**

within a short span of time. Not only have they grown to love you as an antagonist, but your roles have also grown to be some of the much-loved characters, despite being in the greyer arena.

I enjoy portraying characters like Rafsan from “Punorjonmo”, Babu from “Morichika” and Rashed from “Redrum” as I feel they offer more strata for me to discover as an actor.

I have never wanted to limit myself as an artiste by succumbing to the norms a ‘hero’ is expected to project on the screen. Rather, I have always wanted to present personas that are intriguing, intelligent, and believable.

## Mosharraf Karim and Mousumi Mou pair up for ‘Boss’

Imraul Rafat directorial “Boss” is set to release this Eid-ul-Fitr. The project will feature Mosharraf Karim and Mousumi Mou for the first time together. The plot revolves around an office, where Mosharraf plays a strict boss who manipulates his employees. According to Mousumi Mou, she portrays Labonnyo, a new employee, who struggles to fit in. As the story progresses, some twist unfolds, as the boss falls in love with the employee. The tele-fiction is scripted by Enel Haque.

“I am grateful to the entire team, especially Mosharraf *bhai*, for his support as a co-artist,” shares the actress.



## Momotaz and Belal Khan’s ‘Baper Boro Pola’

**ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK**

Legendary folk singer Momotaz Begum, MP, has collaborated with renowned musician Belal Khan for the duet track, “Baper Boro Pola”. The music is composed by Khan himself.

The lyrics of the song is penned by Shomeshwar Oli, while the music is arranged by Tuhin Al Amin and additional programming is handled by Adib.

After garnering much appreciation for “Local Bus”, Momotaz is set to appear in a music video yet again for the new track. Directed by Shuvabrata Sarker, it also features Rehnuma Mostafa and Zaher Alvi, and is choreographed by Ruhul Aminn.

The video of “Baper Boro Pola” will be released on April 25 on Belal Khan’s official YouTube channel, alongside Shadhin, Amazon Prime, Spotify and other music platforms.



# COUNTRYWIDE

## Heyday for dried fish business

**AMINUL ISLAM**

The business centering dried fish, which has a huge demand in the domestic market, has created wide employment opportunities for hundreds of families in haor areas of Kishoreganj.

There is a bright prospect of producing a huge amount of dried fish in the haor areas of the district, which will make a good number of poor haor people solvent, said Horimon Chandra Das of Daspara area in Kuliarchahr upazila of Kishoreganj.

He also said it is their ancestral profession and some 600 families are still involved with the profession in Kuliarchar.

As the price of dried fish has increased in recent years, the profit from this business has also soared, said 52-year-old Horimon, involved with this ancestral profession since his boyhood.

The demand for dried fish, especially the country varieties captured from the open water bodies, is ever-increasing, said Md Ruhul Amin, a field officer of upazila fisheries office in Kuliarchar of Kishoreganj.

To dry fish traditionally, the fishermen set up bamboo platforms in the open fields or spread the fish on mats on the ground.

A large number of women are also involved in cutting and cleaning fish and they earn Tk 50,000 to Tk 60,000 per season (six months), said Samir Das, another businessman.

The flourish of this business will surely create job opportunities for many poor haor people when other types of works remain elusive for them, said Md Ziaul Haque Jewel, senior upazila fisheries officer in Kuliarchar, a hub of dry fishes.

The dried fish producers said the price is good this year and they are eying a good profit this season, he said.

A 30-year-old Protima Rani Das who works at a shed in Kuliarchahr’s Daspara said she earns Tk 50,000 in every season.

Contacted, Ripon Chandra Pal, district fisheries officer (DFO) in Kishoreganj, said around 1500 tonnes of dried fishes are produced in Kishoreganj per year.

The DFO also said that Kuliarchar, Nikli, Bajitpur, Itna,

Mithamoin, Astadhar, Tarail, Karimganj and Bajitpur are some of the leading areas in producing dried fishes.

Around 50,000 people are involved directly and indirectly with the dried fish business in the district, added the official.

The dried fishes are supplied to different parts of the country including Dhaka. The dried fish business has also bright export potential and this delicacy is hugely popular in neighbouring India and many other European countries.

Dry fishes are being exported to the Indian states of Mizoram, Assam, Tripura and Kolkata through Akhaura border in Brahmanbaria, said the DFO.

He also said that for producing quality dried fishes, they have been training farmers in Itna, Mithamoin, Kuliarchahr and Katiadi upazila.

The DFO also informed that some 82,000 tonnes of fish are produced in the district and over 30,000 farmers are involved in this sector. The surplus production is supplied to other areas of the country.



Fish is seen drying under the open sun in Daspara area on the bank of Kali river in Kuliarchar upazila of Kishoreganj. The dried fish production and profit margin have increased bringing solvency to many haor fishers. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: COLLECTED

## SI closed

**FROM PAGE 12**

plainclothes and informant Nuruzzaman went to her house on Saturday noon.

Failing to get Nurul, SI Mahbub asked the woman to give almirah keys but she refused, reads the complaint. The SI then became furious and kicked her twice to get the keys, the victim said.

The SI, after obtaining the keys, opened the almirah and took away Tk 1.42 lakh, two mobile phones, birth registration and educational certificates of her children, the woman alleged.

## Lankan

**FROM PAGE 12**

unrest Rajapaksa dissolved his previous cabinet earlier this month and invited all parties in parliament to form a unity government, but opposition groups and members of the ruling alliance rejected the idea.

Only five members of the previous cabinet were sworn in again yesterday, while most other portfolios were allocated to members of the ruling Sri Lanka Podujana Peramuna party.

Among those not re-appointed from the previous cabinet were two more of the president’s brothers, Basil and Chamal, and the prime minister’s son Namal.

The president said he would seek solutions to Sri Lanka’s problems, including via possible constitutional changes.

“I am ready to extend my full support to Parliament at any time in this regard,” he said.

He also said that a chemical last year to ban all chemical fertilisers, which was later reversed but led to a drop in agricultural production, was a mistake.

Economic mismanagement by successive governments weakened Sri Lanka’s public finances, but the situation was exacerbated by deep tax cuts enacted by the Rajapaksa administration soon after it took office in 2019.

## Diplomats

**FROM PAGE 12**

Momen said eventually, 65 diplomats expressed allegiance before the victory, which put the Pakistan regime under huge pressure. That also helped mobilise global opinion for the independence of Bangladesh.

He proposed that their names are written in golden letters in memorabilia.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Shahrir Alam paid tribute to the Bangladeshi diplomats

for their sacrifice, but also noted that a few officials had taken the side of the Pakistani regime in 1971 and were awarded after the assassination of Bangabandhu.

“So, our struggle against ill forces is not over yet. Such forces are still working against Bangladesh and we need to work hard to defeat them and achieve our goals,” he said.

Former foreign minister AH Mahmood Ali, former

diplomat Mohiuddin Ahmed, who had expressed their allegiance to the Mujibnagar Government, also shared their experiences during the Liberation War days in the US and England.

“I could never think of speaking to a learned audience in Oxford, but the Liberation War spirit was so much so that I was brave enough to do that and got a standing ovation,” Mohiuddin Ahmed said.

## Russia bombards cities

**FROM PAGE 1**

adding that Ukrainian soldiers continued to control some parts of the southeastern city.

On the streets of Mariupol, small groups of bodies were lined up under colourful blankets, surrounded by shredded trees and scorched buildings, reports Reuters.

Serhiy Gaidai, the governor of the Luhansk region, said street fighting had begun between Ukrainian and Russian troops and he repeated a plea for people to evacuate.

Russian forces advanced overnight and taken Kreminna, he said in a television speech, adding that authorities could no

longer take people out of the town.

He said four civilians were shot dead while trying to flee by car from Kreminna.

More than 4.9 million Ukrainians have fled their country following the Russian invasion, the UN said yesterday as it warned of the risks of women and child refugees being exploited.

## Earliest

**FROM PAGE 12**

often built what initially were modest-sized temples, then constructed ever-larger versions atop the earlier ones. This pyramid eventually reached about 100 feet tall.

The glyph found on the mural fragments for “7 Deer,” one of the calendar’s 260 named days, consisted of the ancient Maya writing for the number seven over the outline of a deer’s head.

University of Texas professor of Mesoamerican art and writing David Stuart, lead author of the research published in the journal Science Advances, described the fragments as “two small pieces of white plaster that would fit in your hand, that were once attached to a stone wall.”

“The wall was intentionally destroyed by the ancient Maya when they were rebuilding their ceremonial spaces - it eventually grew into a pyramid. The two pieces fit together and have black painted calligraphy, opening with the date ‘7 Deer.’ The rest is hard to read,” Stuart added.

“The paintings from this phase are all badly fragmented, unlike any from the later, more famous chamber,” Stuart said.

Until now, the earliest definitive Maya calendar notation dated to the first century BC.

The calendar, rooted upon observations of the movements of the sun, moon and planets, was

based on a ritual cycle of 260 named days. The 260-day calendar, called the tzolk’in, was one of several inter-related Maya systems of reckoning time.

**MP**

**FROM PAGE 12**

“I don’t understand why he is doing this drama,” said Monir.

“I asked the upazila chairman when I met him at an iftar party in Gopalpur yesterday [Sunday]. The local UNO and OC also asked the upazila chairman about this. He could not give an answer. He sought party nomination in the last parliamentary election. Elections are approaching again. May be he is spreading lies to ruin my image.”