



MABRUR RASHID BANNAH reflects on his decade in showbiz

SHARMIN JOYA

Having made his directorial debut in 2011 with the tele-fiction “Flashback”, Mabrur Rashid Bannah has spent a decade proving himself as one of the prolific young directors on television. He went on to win over the audience with projects like “Alien O Rumpar Golpo”, “Firefly”, “All About Us”, among many other projects.

“I worked as an assistant director to Iftexhar Ahmed Fahmi for three years before my debut directorial, and I learned a lot from him,” shares Bannah, who is a graduate of Communication and Media Studies, from UODA. “I was lucky enough, to get support from the prominent artistes, who believed in me, my first project featured an artiste like Aly Zaker – what more I could ask for as a debutant!”

His directorial projects, “Asroy” starring Mosharraf Karim and Zakia Bari Mamo, “Sweeper Man” starring Musliq R Farhan, and “Mayer Daak” featuring Dilara Zaman were also widely appreciated, having bagged the highest number of awards in 28 categories at the The Nexgen International Film Festival and the Paradox International Film Festival. Bannah considers these projects to be the major turning points in his career.

“I had submitted these fictions as experiments, to be honest,” smiles the director. “Awards are always inspiring, and having said that I have further plans to direct more projects in future particularly focused for international festivals, which is a new experience for me.” One of

his highlights this Eid is “#Single Film Story” which includes 14 short films. “These short films include sci-fi, thriller, and thought provoking plots,” says Bannah.

Bannah will also act as the creative producer of “Baish E Ekush”, a project consisting of 21 short films directed by 11 directors, who previously worked as assistant directors with him.

“I am looking forward to this project, as it is a great opportunity for the emerging directors to prove themselves.”

At any given time, Mabrur Rashid Bannah is always occupied with multiple projects, without rest. “I am a workaholic, who always into telling new stories.”

This year will mark a decade of his directorial journey. “Surviving in this industry was definitely a challenge, since

I had to compete with some of the best.” Bannah is a versatile act, being able to portray a wide array of subjects including science fictions, contemporary social issues and rom-coms. “I don’t really make for any particular audience, as a storyteller I always want to portray a fresh story that will surprise the audience,” he says.

Near the end of the interview, Mabrur Rashid Bannah dropped a bombshell: the director is gearing up for his first film. “Though I had plans to begin it earlier, however, the pandemic changed everything. I am all set for my silver screen debut, as I can say for now, my pre-production is in the works,” shares an excited Bannah. “I am grateful to my audience for supporting me, and I want them all to be with me in my new journey to the silver screens.”

PHOTO: COURTESY OF MABRUR RASHID BANNAH



Porshi to star in ‘MARIA ONE PIECE’

Popular Indian television actor Rishi Kaushik has appeared in a Bangladeshi tele-fiction opposite Tasnia Farin. He is now pairing up with singer Sabrina Porshi for the Eid project, “Maria One Piece”.

The tele-fiction is written and directed by Sajin Ahmed Babu. This is the first starring role for Porshi, as an actress. She previously had a cameo in Shamim Ahamed Roni directorial “Mental”, starring Shakib Khan and Nusrat Imrose Tisha.

Siddharth Malhotra to make OTT debut with ‘Indian Police Force’

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Sidharth Malhotra is joining the likes of Ajay Devgn, Ranveer Singh and Akshay Kumar as he enters renowned director Rohit Shetty’s cop universe with his upcoming web series, “Indian Police Force”.

Both Sidharth and Rohit are making their OTT debut with the series that will be streaming on Amazon Prime Video.

The story of the show salutes the selfless service and unwavering commitment of India’s police forces.

The teaser of “Indian Police Force” shows Sidharth as Kabir Malik, in the lead role. Filming for the series has begun.

COUNTRYWIDE

Use of salt in cropland: A disaster in the offing

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Natore

A large number of farmers are using salt on cropland unscrupulously hoping to get higher yields in various upazilas of Natore especially in Naldanga. However, experts have suggested that the practice will cause long term damage to the cropland and diminish the fertility of land.

According to the Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), 60,750 hectares of land have been brought under paddy cultivation, 23,852 hectares under wheat, 4756 hectares under onion and 21,970 hectares under garlic and other crops. Most of the farmers are using salt on their lands.

Notably, farmers are applying iodized salt mixed with chemical fertilizers which is likely to reduce soil fertility and long term loss of arable land.

Akhtaruzzaman Rentu, a farmer

of Sheikhpara village in Naldanga upazila, said he is aware of the damage caused by applying salt, yet he is doing it hoping to get a better yield.

Naldanga Upazila Agriculture Officer Faujia Ferdous said “Some

Farmers are applying iodized salt mixed with chemical fertilizers which is likely to reduce soil fertility and long term loss of arable land.

unscrupulous farmers apply salt on onion land and other crops for higher yield. We are advising the farmers at the field level not to apply salt to maintain the quality of the land.”

She also claimed that the agriculture department is working

to create public awareness on this issues but the number of farmers using salt is not high.

Supendranath Biswas, a lecturer at agriculture department of Naldanga Shaheed Nazmul Haque Government College, said salt is composed of sodium chloride. Soil poisoning occurs when the amount of sodium chloride in the soil increases. Adding salt to the soil will reduce the productivity even if it yields good results. So it is not right to apply edible salt in any way.

Md Mahmudul Faruk, deputy director of DAE in Natore, said the use of salt burns the crop and prevents its spread ultimately turning it yellow. Adding salt to the soil breaks down the soil structure so that the soil does not have the right amount of water and air. If there is not enough water and air in the soil, the roots of the tree will not be able to breathe properly. Trees cannot absorb water easily.



A farmer applying salt mixed with chemical fertilizers on an onion field in Naldanga upazila.

PHOTO: STAR

HC grants record 1,498 bail

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files of the 1,498 rules and then ordered the officials concerned to include those in yesterday’s cause list for passing order.

Multiple accused have secured bail in bail petitions which were finally settled by the bench led by Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif, as a result, a few thousand accused have got bail. This bench is expected to pass similar orders in more than 1,000 cases today.

The petitioners face criminal charges, including

murder, rape, robbery, torture of women and children, abduction, mugging, human trafficking and addiction, according to sources.

Earlier in 2019, another HC bench led by Justice M Enayetur Rahim (now a judge of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court) had disposed of around 1,200 similar cases in a single day.

SC lawyer Khurshid Alam Khan and Deputy Attorney General Aminul Islam told The Daily Star

that disposal of such a large number of rules in petty cases will help reduce the huge backlog of cases.

On April 17, Chief Justice Hasan Foez Siddique constituted 13 HC benches, including that of Justice Sheikh Hassan Arif and Justice KM Zahid Sarwar Kazal, for the disposal of such long pending bail petitions.

Yesterday, 10 HC benches disposed of around 3,500 bail petitions, which were filed from 2016 to 2019, said the sources.

Germany envoy unhappy

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national elections.

“Germany is in favour of peaceful elections and that every political player takes part in it but refrains from any violence.”

Democracy and human rights are the keys to Germany’s foreign policy, and the country has engaged with the Bangladesh government and the UN on this.

Germany is the second-largest export market for Bangladesh, importing some \$6 billion worth of products a year.

It is also the second-largest donor to the humanitarian needs of the Rohingya.

Germany cut

development cooperation with Myanmar for the atrocity crimes against the Rohingyas.

Asked about the challenges Bangladesh faces after it graduates from the least-developed country bracket, Troster said the country will get three years grace period after graduation.

The duty-free quota will be gone after 2029 and to be succeeded by the Generalised Scheme of Preferences Plus, a programme of the EU that gives developing countries a special incentive to pursue sustainable development and good governance in return for zero-duty imports on more

than two-thirds of the tariff lines of their exports.

To avail of the facility, Bangladesh will have to improve human rights and labour rights.

“Bangladesh is progressing and will hopefully be eligible for the new privilege,” Troster said, adding that it was also one of the ten countries that were offered a partnership called Climate and Development Partnership.

Asked if Germany will speed up student visas, he said Germany encourages students for higher studies such as PhD and Masters and not so much for undergraduate-level study.

JS committee slams LGD

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should be taken against them, the committee also said.

Emerging from the meeting, Abdus Shahid, chairman of the committee, said they received information on 185 projects. Progress of many projects are almost

zero.

He also said lawmakers have laid foundations of a lot of projects, which have hardly seen any progress. The committee has asked the ministry to complete the projects and submit a report within three months.

It has also asked for

information on project revisions.

Shahid, a ruling Awami League lawmaker, said only one and a half years are left before the completion of the present government’s tenure. “It will give us a bad name if we fail to implement the development projects within this time.”

Plots afoot

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“In that manifesto, we had declared Vision 2021. I am expressing my gratitude towards the people of the country for electing us repeatedly,” she said.

She also said that the government has attained the targets declared in the party’s election manifestoes.

“We have promoted our country from a least developed country to a developing country while we celebrated the birth centenary of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Golden Jubilee of the Independence,” she said.

Two killed

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two lightning strikes in the area just before the explosion around 6:00am.

The incident might have happened as the factory was hit by lightning. They are investigating the accident, said the OC.

On information, police rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and sent those to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsies.

Superintendent of Police Mohammad Ahmar Uzzaman visited the spot.

Seven Afghan men flogged on Taliban-run SC order

AFP, Kabul

Taliban authorities yesterday flogged seven men for crimes including selling and consuming alcohol, an official said – the first such sentence to be handed out by Afghanistan’s courts since the headline Islamists seized power.