

12 shades of Khairul Basar this Eid

Following the success of productions like “Networker Baire” and “Mohanagar” and “Purnojonmo 2”, Khairul Basar is now looking forward to twelve new productions this Eid ul-Fitr. While the actor garnered praises for productions like “Teerondaj” and “Nikhoj” in recent times, he is also set to appear on the silver screen with Giasuddin Selim’s “Kajol Rekha”. We caught up with Khairul Basar to know more about his upcoming Eid releases, his silver screen debut, and more.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

The actor recently finished shooting for Vicky Zahed’s “Ghun” where he will share the screen with Mehazabien Chowdhury. “I am also done shooting for Pothik Shadhan’s “Antodohon”, where I play the character of a carefree individual and his artistic pursuits,” mentions Basar.

He is set to pair up with some of the most cherished and loved actresses in the industry this season. He will be seen opposite Tanjin Tisha in the Preety Dutta directorial single episode “Priyo Shuvra”, and Sabila Nur in Tarek Rahman’s “Confusion”.

“I wanted to experience working with different co-stars as I feel I am comparatively new and have a lot left to explore,” says Basar, who will also be seen with Rafiath Rashid Mithila in Preety Dutta’s “Senior”. “This season, I was able to work with names that I have always wanted to and I must say, they are not just mesmerizing on the screen but also exceptional colleagues to work with.”

Following the success of productions like “Jotno”, the audience will also be able to re-explore the chemistry between Basar and Safa Kabir in Mizanur Rahman Aryan’s “Ora Tin Jon” and Tarek Rahman’s “Station”. “Ora Tin Jon” also casts Tasnuva Tisha.

He is also hopeful about “Hello Inspector”, a tele-fiction directed by Jamal Mallick where he will re-appear with his “Networker Baire” co-star Nazia Haque Orsha and “Ostad Baaye Plastic” which features Sanjida Preeti opposite him.

“Orsha’s brilliant screen presence, Tasnuva’s resilience, Preeti’s naturalistic performance, Mithila’s cordiality, Safa’s friendliness, and Sabila’s mischief – that’s what this experience left behind for me,” shares Basar.

Alongside prominent faces, Basar is

looking to revive his on-screen chemistry with Rothshi Siddika, whom he last appeared with in “Teerondaj” in “Porshi Jodi Amay Chuto”.

Alongside television, Basar is living his wish to work with celebrated director Giasuddin Selim in “Kajol Rekha”. “I have always wanted to be a part of stories that are larger than life and hailing from Mymensingh, I am glad that I got to be a part of the cinematic projection of its famous folklore,” he shared excitedly.

“However, I am not fully prepared for the silver screen,” asserts Basar. “With the audience being driven away from theatres and halls closing down, I feel we ought to look out for the transition that is currently evident in our audience, when it comes to their preferences.

Basar intends to invest his attention towards web projects in the upcoming days alongside planning for Eid al-Adha productions. “Time and budget – there are two luxurious resources that tele-production often fail to secure. This not only hampers the presentation, but also interferes with the director’s artistic preferences. Thus, the script fails to live up to its potential.”



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF KHAIRUL BASAR

Nevertheless, Basar intends to keep performing with every ounce of passion that he possesses. “Acting is my profession and at the end of the day, we all look to give labour where there is a return. However, I will never compromise on my character choices and performances just to ensure my daily bread,” he concludes.

‘Ageist society tells you when to hang up boots’



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Anil Kapoor will soon be sharing screen space with his real-life son Harsh Vardhan Kapoor in the upcoming Netflix film, “Thar”.

The “Dil Dhadakne Do” actor plays an ageing cop tasked with investigating murders. In a recent interview with *Mid-Day*, he opened up about his character and why he could relate to it.

Anil Kapoor revealed that his character’s undying enthusiasm toward his work, even as those around him write him off was one of the reasons he was drawn to the film.

“[My character] is at an age where he can do so much, but he has to retire because of the rules. He feels stuck. Be it your profession or mine, it is [dictated by] an ageing society. They tell you when it’s time to hang up your boots. I could relate to the character, and get into his soul,” he said.

Release date for Priyanka Chopra’s ‘It’s All Coming Back to Me’ announced



Priyanka Chopra and Sam Heughan starrer “It’s All Coming Back to Me” will be released on February 10, 2023. The Hollywood romantic comedy was formerly called, “Text for You.”

The “White Tiger” actress announced the news on social media, along with a still from the movie, which is based on the 2016 German film ‘SMS fur Dich’ by Karoline Herfurth.

The project marks Priyanka Chopra’s first leading role in a Hollywood film.

COUNTRYWIDE

A scar that could not be healed in 51 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

It all happened right before her eyes 51 years ago on April 18 but nonagenarian Halima Hafiz is still haunted by the memory of her husband and 10th grader son being stabbed indiscriminately and later buried while they were still alive.

Ninety-five-year-old Halima’s husband Abdul Hafiz and her son Belal Suza were stabbed with sharp weapons and seriously injured. She and her younger son Zelal Shafi were also beaten.

Later, the Biharis picked up seriously wounded Abdul Hafiz and Belal Suza. They were dumped in an abandoned hole next to the Christian church in Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town while they were still alive.

“I escaped with my youngest son Zelal Shafi and somehow survived. My husband and son never came back. They were buried in the abandoned hole while they were still alive. I still can’t forget the brutal torture and killings of my husband and son,” said Halima.

Abdul Hafiz was the Baro Babu (upper division clerk) of the DME office of Lalmonirhat Railway Divisional Office. He was known as ‘Hafiz Doctor’ in Lalmonirhat town. He was a registered homoeopath doctor. He used to extend free treatment to the poor people in the area.

Her son Belal Suza was a 10th grader at Lalmonirhat Model School. He was an active member of the Bangladesh Chhatra

Union. Abdul Hafiz’s ancestral house was at Biharhat village in Shibganj upazila of Bogura district. He had been living in Lalmonirhat since 1947 for his job in the railways.

Zelal Shafi, the youngest son of Halima, said his brother martyred Belal Suza used to organise students for independence. He burned the Pakistani flag and hoisted the Bangladeshi flag. Due to this, the Bihari people were enraged.

“The memories of my father and brother being brutally tortured to death

“Several other Bengalis were also buried in the same abandoned hole. The place is a mass grave,” he said. “I have identified the mass grave. But the administration has not taken any step to preserve the mass grave,”

still haunt me; I cry,” he said.

“Several other Bengalis were also buried in the same abandoned hole. The place is a mass grave,” he said. “I have identified the mass grave. But the administration has not taken any step to preserve the mass grave,” Zelal said adding that “I demand the preservation of the mass grave of my father martyred Abdul Hafiz and brother martyred Belal Suza and other martyrs.”

Bodi, brother

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Shukkur refuted the allegation of assault and said, “There was chaos at the meeting. My associates and I, as a leader of the unit, tried to solve it.”

Sold out

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with the country’s northern region as the expansion work of the Elonga-Rangpur highway is going on. That’s why many people are preferring train over bus to go home.

HIGH DEMAND BLAMED Advance tickets for trips to western districts and Khulna were being sold at Kamalapur yesterday. Besides, tickets were on sale at the old railway station at Phulbaria, Teigaon, cantonment and airport railway stations for different destinations.

Speaking to this correspondent, many alleged that they could not buy tickets online after trying for several hours, but found that tickets were sold out within about a minute after the start of sale.

From Dhaka, the BR is selling around 27,000 advance tickets every day, of which 50 percent are sold online.

Masud Sarwar, station manager at Kamalapur Railway Station, told journalists that when the online sale opens at 8:00am, some 500 to 700 people hit the server for a single ticket, overwhelming the server.

He, however, claimed that many passengers were able to buy tickets online, citing their online ticketing service provider Shohoz.

About the suffering at ticket counters, Masud said a train usually has about 700 tickets, half of which are sold at counters.

“But in some cases, 2,000 to 3,000 people stand in a line for some 300 to 350 tickets. So it’s quite normal that many people will not get tickets,” he argued.

Bidyanondo’s Kishore honoured

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provides more than 10,000 nutritious meals for vulnerable people, particularly children and the homeless.

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Bidyanondo further ramped up its efforts to distribute relief across the country. It also worked to sanitise public spaces and transport, and also provide educational,

health and food support to those in need.

Despite many odds and obstacles, the organisation still pressed and continues to press forward with their works for the marginalised.

As part of the legacy of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London 2018, the Queen – as Head of the Commonwealth

– awards inspirational volunteers across the 54 Commonwealth nations by recognising one volunteer from each Commonwealth country every week.

About being recognised, Kishore said he feels humbled and that the award validates that the world is benefiting from the work of volunteers.

“I believe this prestigious recognition of

‘Bidyanondo’ will inspire other different charitable organisations to be more humane and beneficiary oriented.”

Javed Patel, acting British high commissioner to Bangladesh, said, “Their outstanding efforts continue to drive young people in Bangladesh and across the world towards the spirit of volunteerism and compassion.”

Ethnic community now in danger

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indigenous community.

The demands include halting the extraction immediately, compensating and rehabilitating the affected people, restoring the ecological balance in the area, ensuring no adverse

effect on the locality during the extraction of white clay, ensuring constant monitoring and listing of the affected people and assessing the damage inflicted upon them.

The companies digging out the area for clay did not

get any clearance certificate from the Department of Environment in Mymensingh, Forid Ahmed, divisional director of the DAE in Mymensingh, told The Daily Star.

“Not only that we have raised objection during the meeting,” he said, adding

that due to court order they could take any action against them.

Mamunur Rashid, deputy director of the Bureau for Mineral Development that oversees the area, told The Daily Star that the companies got a court order to extract clay.

147 sued, 67 arrests a month

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professor of political science at Illinois State University in the USA, said the DSA has given “immense power” to law enforcement agencies while there are no monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

The plaintiffs of 508 cases could be identified, and of them, 33 percent were affiliated with the ruling party and 22 percent were cops.

Anyone can file a case against any individual under the law. As a result, a pathway for “vigilante justice” has been opened, said Prof Riaz.

The report found 98 out of the 890 cases were filed for “defaming” the prime minister, 51 for defaming ministers, and 75 for defaming political leaders,

mostly of the ruling party.

“This is a great threat to the judicial system and rule of law,” said Prof Riaz.

He voiced concern that the misuse of the law might increase further before the parliamentary election next year.

JOURNALIST VICTIMS

The report found that in 26 months preceding February, as many as 207 journalists have been prosecuted under the DSA.

Seventy of them were associated with national-level media houses while 117 were local journalists.

A quarter of the accusers filing cases against journalists belong to the ruling party and its affiliated bodies.

Ruling Awami League men are mostly trying to take advantage by utilising the law, said CGS

Chairman Manjur Ahmed Chowdhury.

Former election commissioner Brig Gen (ret’d) M Sakhawat Hussain said the situation has been created because the country is in the midst of an “elected autocracy”, adding that an acceptable election was the way to overcome the present situation.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar said laws like the DSA are being formulated to serve the powerful.

The DSA and road safety laws were formulated around the same time. However, the DSA’s use started almost immediately whereas the road safety law has yet to be fully implemented, he added.

BCL and Jubo

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Saibal Das Suman and Sabbir are known as the followers of City unit AL General Secretary AJM Nasir Uddin.

Jahidul Kabir, officer-in-charge of Kotwali Police Station, said the youth succumbed to his injuries after being rushed to CMCH.

Police were working to identify the killer, he said.

In Patiya, police said the incident took place in Shantirhat Budpura Bazar area of Kashiyaish union in the upazila at around 11:00pm.

Locals said the UP election of Kashiyaish union was held on 26 December.

Since the election, there was a feud between UP Chairman Abul Kashem and his rival candidate Mohammed Kayesh.

Sohel fell victim to this rivalry, said locals.



Halima Hafiz is seen offering prayers for the salvation of the souls of her martyred husband and son in Sahebpara area of Lalmonirhat town. The photo was taken recently.

PHOTO: STAR