

Tawsif steps out of his COMFORT ZONE

Popular actor Tawsif Mahub ventured into the field of television with 'All Time Dourer Upor' in 2013. He has worked in 15 Eid projects this year, including Mizanur Rahman Aryan's 'Shurutai Shundor', Vicky Zahed's 'Chokh', and Shihab Shaheen's 'Half Chance', among others. We caught up with him to find out more about his recent work.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

You have worked on quite a range of projects this Eid. Which roles were the most challenging for you?

All the characters came with their own set of challenges. Enacting scenes in "Chokh", where I play a zombie, was not easy, as the make-up was quite thorough. I had glue stuck to my face, while delivering dialogues.

In "Rupkotha Noy", there was a scene where my character hangs himself. Somehow, the production team forgot to bring the security rope from BFDC. The director decided that the shot will be cancelled, but I was adamant on going on with the scene. I told him that he can tie a regular rope around my neck. The crew members warned me that my chest might get bruised or my rib cage might break due to the pressure. Fortunately, I was able to do the scene for two whole minutes. I also got bruised while climbing a green coconut tree for a scene.

In "Silence", I had to play a character who doesn't speak right till the end. The central idea was that society remains 'silent' when it comes to many issues. I told my director that I don't want my character to have any dialogues. People should be curious as to why he is quiet all the time. His mother and his wife treat him badly. Yet, he doesn't say anything.

How was it working on Bongo BOB's 'Half Chance'?

I play a very shy and unlucky guy who has never interacted with girls. To get into the skin of the character, I had a very strange haircut, and subsequently, I couldn't shoot for other projects for ten to twelve days. It was a unique experience, but I loved playing this quirky character on screen.

Your on-screen pairing with Safa Kabir is a fan favourite. However, you two didn't work together this Eid.

Safa is my best friend, and we share a great bond. At one point, people even assumed that she was my wife. However, the audience can get tired of watching one pair together continuously. Safa and I decided we would work less together as we have collaborated on more than 200 projects till date. People like my on-screen chemistry with Tanjin Tisha as well.

You have come out of your comfort zone by playing diverse characters this Eid. Was it a conscious decision to break out of your 'boy next door' image?

I will continue to play the boy next door, as my fans like to see me in such roles.

My character Nihal was really appreciated in "Bachelor Point". However, I left it as I wanted to do more than just popular shows. I am seeking out more challenging roles. I truly want to play a mute character, as it would require a lot of dedication.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF TAWSIF MAHUB



'Golui' gets permit for screening in Jamalpur

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Shakib Khan and Puja Chery starrer "Golui" has received permission from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting to continue screening in Jamalpur district.

Director S A Haque Olike confirmed the news on his Facebook account.

"There is no restriction for 'Golui' to be screened in three auditoriums of Jamalpur. Heartiest gratitude to the honourable Minister and Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for lifting the restriction. Let's take Bangla cinema forward," the post read.

"Golui" has been released in 29 cinema halls across the country. The movie also Shuchorita, Ali Raj, and Azizul Hakim, among others, in pivotal roles.

Priyanka Chopra back to work



Priyanka Chopra returned to work just after announcing the homecoming of her baby girl, Malti Marie Chopra Jonas, on the occasion of Mother's Day. The "Barfi" actress was on the sets of her upcoming web series, "Citadel".

Taking to her Instagram handle, Priyanka shared a glimpse of herself, sporting a red, deep-neck, cut-out dress and minimalistic gold jewellery. She posed alongside her name card.

"Citadel" is an action-packed spy series, also starring Richard Madden. It will be out on Amazon Prime Video soon.

NEWS

At least one playground for every area

FROM PAGE 2
to encourage both children and adults to take part in sports, exercise and cultural activities and create scope for their involvement.

"Through this, our children will become good human beings and worthy citizens of the country. Their mind will be fresh, they will not walk the wrong path. That is my belief."

She requested parents and guardians to spare

their children some free time so they can go out to play in the field staying away from devices which were making them dull and lazy.

Hasina emphasised reviving the rural games and sports as the country has a vast heritage in this field.

She mentioned that her government would extend all support for further development of games and sports.

The PM said the government has started preparing a separate playground for children just beside the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. "The work has begun. We are setting up an academy for them."

Expressing displeasure at the slow progress in building a mini stadium in every upazila, she asked the authorities to complete those quickly.

State Minister for Youth and Sports Zahid Ahsan

Russel and Youth and Sports Secretary Mesbah Uddin also spoke at the programme.

Some 85 players and organisers got the prestigious award for their outstanding contributions to the sports arena. Each recipient got a gold medal, a Tk1 lakh cheque and a certificate.

On behalf of the PM, the state minister distributed the awards among the winners.

Working to bring changes

FROM PAGE 12
so that the law could protect journalists of all media -- print, electronic and online.

The existing laws are not capable of protecting journalists properly and the government has taken the initiative to formulate the law following journalists' demand, added Hasan.

He said they were also working to enhance the power of the Press Council as it now only can reprimand, which is not effective considering today's reality.

"We have already prepared the draft of the

proposal [to amend the Press Council act] and it will be placed before the cabinet."

About the Digital Security Act, the minister said when the country did not enter the digital era, there was no necessity for such an act. The law has been enacted to ensure security of people in this digital era, he said.

This kind of act is in force in other countries, he mentioned.

The minister said the government always tries to ensure that this law is not misused or arbitrarily used. The government

is also cautious so that journalists do not face any unnecessary lawsuits or harassment, he added.

Responding to a query, Hasan said earlier anyone could file a case against anybody under the DSA, but it is not possible now, especially against journalists. If anyone wants to lodge a case under the law, they need to have permission from police, he said.

About reports of some international organisations like Amnesty International, Reporters Without Borders and Transparency

International Bangladesh, the minister said those organisations have "lost their credibility".

There is a necessity for organisations like Amnesty International across the world as voice from the international community is needed in case of violations of human rights. But when this organisation becomes biased, it loses its credibility and it hurts the country, he said.

The minister said he thinks media in Bangladesh is enjoying freedom which is absent in many developing countries.

Nothing wrong with the GDP calculation

FROM PAGE 2
of electricity and gas, which would power the factories, declined markedly, raising doubts about the estimates in the

economists' minds. "We have not added any new component to our GDP calculation -- we did not shift away from our usual methodology. If they

[the economists] want, we can talk them through the process and show them the full data."

If there are still doubts, the WB and the IMF, who

endorsed the methodology, can be consulted.

"Look around and you will see how vibrant and robust the economy is right now."

Hajj package gets costlier

FROM PAGE 12
because of the exchange rate of Saudi Riyal, 15 percent VAT on all services, and the introduction of taxes by the Saudi authorities.

The junior minister said the private hajj agencies could announce multiple packages.

The state minister yesterday said the packages include airfare, rent in Saudi Arabia, service charges, Muallem fees,

food and other expenses.

Every pilgrim under private and public hajj management will have to pay an additional Tk 19,683 for a Qurbani coupon from the Islamic Development Bank in Saudi Arabia.

The Hajj Agencies Association of Bangladesh said it would formally announce the hajj packages at a press conference today.

According to an agreement between Bangladesh and Saudi

Arabia, 57,585 Bangladeshis will be able to perform hajj this year, likely to be held on July 8, Faridul said.

Of the total pilgrims, only 4,000 will perform hajj under government management, according to the state minister.

The state minister said a hajj agency could send a minimum of 100 and a maximum of 300 pilgrims.

Due to the pandemic, the largest annual Muslim congregation was held on a

limited scale in the last two years.

According to the Saudi Ministry of Hajj and Umrah, pilgrims must be under the age of 65 and be fully inoculated against coronavirus. They must also test negative in a PCR test not more than 72 hours before leaving for Saudi.

Flights carrying the pilgrims are likely to launch from May 31, the state minister for civil aviation said recently.

Bangladesh not in any Chinese

FROM PAGE 12
by the pandemic. But Bangladesh's export and remittance earnings are quite large.

Bangladesh's remittance earning was over \$25 billion even amid the pandemic while its annual export earning is over \$40 billion. Bangladesh is in a much

better position to repay the loans, he said.

"We are very calculative in terms of foreign loans," Momen said.

Bangladesh's major foreign loans are from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and Japan, he said, adding that China's loans account for


only five to six percent of the total foreign loans.

About the crisis in Sri Lanka, the foreign minister said Bangladesh wants restoration of stability in the South Asian island nation.

"We have sent medicines and are considering sending food to Sri Lanka,"

he said. Meanwhile, Bangladesh launched a hotline for the Bangladeshis in Sri Lanka.

A foreign ministry official said, "In case of emergency, Bangladeshis in Sri Lanka may contact: 074 215 8750 or 071 240 6313."



PUBALI BANK LIMITED

REGISTERED OFFICE
26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Disclosure relating to un-audited First Quarter (Q1) Financial Information

This is for kind information of all concerned that the Board of Directors of Pubali Bank Limited in its 1335th Board Meeting (physical and virtual) held on Wednesday, May 11, 2022 at 4:00 PM in the Board Room of the Bank's Head Office, 26 Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka has approved the **First Quarter (Q1) un-audited Financial Statements of the Bank as on March 31, 2022** and disclosed the following key financial indicators of the Bank:

Measures	31 March 2022		31 March 2021	
	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)	Taka (Solo)	Taka (Consolidated)
Operating Profit	2,881,296,967	2,945,713,903	2,421,229,432	2,475,012,695
Net Profit/(Loss) after Taxation	1,195,252,531	1,227,231,390	979,107,986	1,011,563,973
Net Asset Value (NAV)	40,760,945,401	41,126,839,734	39,825,547,535	39,744,699,526
NAV Per Share	39.64	40.00	38.73	38.65
Earnings Per Share (EPS)	1.16	1.19	0.95	0.98
Net Operating Cash Flow Per Share (NOCFPS)	1.29	1.19	3.58	3.98

The details of the un-audited First Quarter (Q1) Financial Statements as on March 31, 2022 is also available in the website of the Bank at www.pubalibangla.com.

By order of the Board
Sd/-
Zahid Ahsan
Deputy Managing Director & Company Secretary

Dated: Dhaka
May 11, 2022