

Fame fades away, but hard work is remembered:

SHOHEL MONDOL



PHOTO: COURTESY OF SHOHEL MONDOL



Starting out with minor roles in films like 'Under Construction' and 'Aynabaji', Shohel Mondol has proved himself as one of the most talented actors working today. He is also a passionate stage actor. He recently starred in Nuhash Humayun's anthology series, 'Pett Kata Shaw', on Chorki.

For Shohel, giving his best to every project is more important than chasing stardom. "Fame eventually fades away, but hard work is remembered," he says.

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Sharing anecdotes from the sets of that show, Shohel explained that there was an incident where his character's hand was cut, and he had to put his 'bloody finger' into a jar of red chili powder. "We used actual chili powder, and in the next scene, I had to rub my eyes with my fingers. Naturally, my eyes had started to burn and I had tears rolling down my cheeks. It was painful, but thankfully, the scene ended up looking great," he mentions.

His projects, "Boli" and "Unoloukik" (Don't Write Me), and "Taan" were quite experimental. Upon asking whether he would like to keep experimenting, Shohel shared that he wants to explore situational

comedies, biographies, and family dramas with social messages. He hopes to do full-fledged commercial movies as well.

He also commented on the government's draft regulation for digital, social media and OTT platforms: "This act should involve people who are working in the OTT sector. Their absence might affect the people who are genuinely making good content. Freedom of individuals should not be hampered in a democratic country."

His web series for Hoichoi, "Refuge" is currently in post-production, while his films, "Hawa" and "Mayar Jonjal" are slated for release this year.

"We shot 'Hawa' in St Martin's Island for 40 days. One scene in the film required me to be under sea water with our director of

photography for six hours straight. That experience will stay with me forever," shares the "Taqdeer" actor.

For Shohel, giving his best to every project is more important than chasing stardom. "Fame eventually fades away, but hard work is remembered," he says.

"I am not worried about the fact that my fame can evaporate in an instant. Rather, I am terrified of not being able to perform well. In those moments, I even think of giving up acting, but I keep trying until I am satisfied with the outcome."

That being said, if acting does not work out for Shohel somewhere down the line, he would pick travelling as a career.

He will begin working on Robiul Alam Robi's untitled Chorki project this month.



Meet the next generation of Bollywood in Zoya Akhtar's 'The Archies'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

With Bollywood all geared up to welcome the next generation of actors, filmmaker Zoya Akhtar has shared the first look of her much-talked-about film, "The Archies", starring Suhana Khan (Shah Rukh Khan's daughter), Khushi Kapoor (Sridevi's daughter), and Agastya Nanda (Amitabh Bachchan's grandson).

Suhana is set to play Veronica, while Agastya and Khushi will be playing Archie and Betty respectively.

In addition to the trio of star kids, the film will also feature young talented artistes Dot, Mihir Ahuja, Yuvraj Menda, and Vedang Raina in pivotal roles. The Zoya Akhtar directorial, an Indian adaptation of the popular Archie comics, will be a live-action musical set in the 1960s. It is slated for release on Netflix in 2023.

Bubly's 'Prem Puran' with Roshan



Ziaul Roshan and Shobnom Bubly are set to star in the film, "Prem Puran".

The romantic movie is jointly directed by Masud Mohiuddin and Mahmood Hasan Shikdar.

Most recently, Bubly was seen in the Chorki original film, "Floor Number 7", directed by Raihan Rafi.

Roshan and Bubly have previously worked together in a number of films, including "Chokh", "Revenge", "Betray", and "Maya: The Love".

COUNTRYWIDE

RAJSHAHI DIVISION

Bad weather hampering Boro harvest

ANWAR ALI

Rice yield is likely to dwindle to some extent in eight districts of Rajshahi division during this Boro season due to bad weather during the harvest period, officials and farmers said.

Good weather persisted during the sowing and cultivation period, but the storms and rains started partially damaging crops in many areas since the harvest began in mid-April.

Department of Agricultural Extension (DAE) which warned farmers of more storms till the end of May is also another reason for crop damage in storms.

Farmers cannot harvest Boro paddy before the storms as many of them cultivate additional crops before the proper sowing period of Boro paddy. This leads to crop damage, they said.

Such as farmers in Rajshahi cultivate potatoes before boro and mustard in the Chalan beel areas covering Natore, Pabna and Sirajganj districts, delaying the boro cultivation, they said.

The DAE has recorded a yield of 3.99 tonnes of rice per hectare as they accounted for a harvest of 31 per cent of 8,20,981 hectares of boro

land till Tuesday in Rajshahi and Bogura regions in the division.

The yield was 0.27 tonnes per hectare less than last year's yield of 4.26 tonnes per hectare, DAE officials said.

"The total yield will rise after the harvest of hybrid and high yielding varieties of paddy completes," Mohammad Khayer Uddin Mollah, acting additional director of Rajshahi DAE said.

He admitted there are chances for declining yield this year.

According to growers and DAE officials, farmers of Chalan Beel usually harvest paddy early.

This year when the DAE is asking farmers to harvest early, farmers of plain lands are facing a labour crisis as most farm labourers were visiting Chalan Beel and other low-lying areas where the harvest starts early.

The farm labourers would return home to join the harvest of their respective districts later.

During a visit to Chalan Beel areas of Satpukuria village in Natore recently, this correspondent found that most farmers already harvested their crops.

They were seen engaged in separating paddy from sheaves, stacking piles of straws, and boiling

paddy for making rice.

They would survive the upcoming monsoon with the rice while they would sell the rest.

DAE officials said Boro paddy was cultivated on some 33,000 hectares of land in Chalan Beel areas.

In the three upazilas of Shingra, Boraigram and Gurudaspur, some 86 per cent harvest was completed, but in Sirajganj and Pabna districts, the harvest barely went beyond 35 per cent, DAE officials said.

Hossain Ali Lebu, a farmer, said he suffered a loss of Tk two lakh as he gathered 200 maunds less paddy this season from 30 bighas of his boro lands.

"Storms lashed my paddy sheaves to the ground," he said, adding "This loss is appearing big as cultivation costs have risen with an increase of diesel price."

He further added that he delayed boro cultivation after harvesting mustard.

However, Md Jewel, another farmer, said he managed a good yield on his 150 bighas of land.

"Good weather helped me," he said, adding that he got 20 maunds per bigha yield from local varieties while the hybrid varieties fetched him a yield of 25 to 35 maunds.

22 AL men

FROM PAGE 12

As soon as the van reached Bayan More near Mahabub's home, a group of 15-20 criminals attacked them. The goons hacked them indiscriminately and fled.

Locals rushed the three injured to Daulatpur Upazila Health Complex from where they were shifted to Kushtia General Hospital. Mahabub breathed his last there around 1:20am on Thursday.

The two others were undergoing treatment at the hospital yesterday.

Buddha

FROM PAGE 12

the people of Bengal since ancient times. Paharpur and Mainamati Shalban Bihar are its shining examples."

He urged the members of the Buddhist community to celebrate Buddha Purnima maintaining health guidelines to prevent the future spread of Covid-19.

The prime minister urged all to work generously to further strengthen the practice and bond of harmony in Bangladesh in future.

"I hope that by upholding and nurturing the ideals of Gautama Buddha, everyone will play a role in building Bangladesh as a peaceful country," she said.

World's

FROM PAGE 12

Victoria Fellner visited Sky Bridge 721 earlier this week as part of a preview event, sharing photos on her Instagram account.

Fellner told CNN Travel that taking her first step on the bridge gave her a "queasy feeling." But this initial fear subsided as she admired the surrounding landscape.

Special campaign to start

FROM PAGE 12

received their booster shots as of Thursday have also been excluded from this list.

"We have enough vaccines in our stock to inoculate all the eligible recipients with the booster dose," Dr Mowla Baksh Chaudhury, deputy director and programme manager of the expanded programme on immunization (EPI), told

this newspaper yesterday.

He said they have been planning on a micro level to count the number of eligible people for booster shots in each upazila.

"With lower Covid-19 transmission rates, we have been observing a lower rush for vaccine recipients. So, we are planning, in detail, to bring more people under the booster dose coverage," Mowla said.

On Tuesday, the DGHS held a coordination meeting in Dhaka with health officials around the country regarding booster dose administration.

On February 8 last year, the government introduced a nationwide Covid-19 vaccination campaign initially for 80 per cent of the population aged 18 and above. The target was later lowered to 70 per cent later.

3 couples die in freak road

FROM PAGE 12

The couple on the motorbike -- Anik Raham Babu, 28, and Yasmin Aktar, 19 -- also died on the spot.

The mangled remains of the car landed on Firoj Mollah, 55, and his wife Ruma Begum, 40, who were threshing paddy. They were killed on impact.

The bus flipped on its side on the road, killing its passenger Altab Hossain Khan, 50, said Sirajul Islam, in-charge of Bhatiapara Highway Police Outpost in Gopalganj.

At least 25 bus

passengers were injured in the accident, he told The Daily Star.

On information, fire service members, police and locals rushed to the spot, recovered the bodies and rescued the injured.

Road traffic was suspended on the highway for about half an hour after the accident, said police.

Lelin Saha, 48, younger brother of Bashudev, said, "My brother was going to our village home to see my ailing mother. I talked to him over the phone about an hour before the accident. But he is now

gone for ever."

Deceased Firoj's neighbour Tinu Mollah said Firoj was a physically challenged person. He used to thresh paddy with the help of his wife. The accident has left the couple's three school-going children orphaned.

Abu Nayeem Md Mofazzal Haque, OC of Bhatiapara Police Station, said they earlier recommended that the authorities set up a central reservation on this particular section of the highway as accidents occur here frequently.

Macron starts second term with challenges mounting

AFP, Paris

French President Emmanuel Macron formally began his second term in office yesterday, maintaining suspense about his new government ahead of parliamentary elections next month that will shape his next five years in power.

The 44-year-old scored a solid victory in April 24 presidential polls against far-right leader Marine Le Pen, but still needs a majority in parliament to be able to push through

his domestic reform agenda.

The identity of Macron's new government is expected to set the tone for campaigning, with the president suggesting he intends to name only the second woman prime minister in modern French history.

Speculation has been rife in the French media, with UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay and current Labour Minister Elisabeth Borne seen as possible candidates, but Macron has taken his time to name a

replacement for outgoing Premier Jean Castex.

"It's been decided, but no one knows who it is," a presidential advisor told AFP on condition of anonymity.

An announcement is expected early next week.

Macron's Republic on the Move party has been renamed Renaissance ahead of the parliamentary polls on June 12 and 19, with several centrist and centre-right parties set to compete under the collective pro-Macron banner of "Together".



Farmers are busy separating paddy from sheaves and stacking piles of straws in Chalan Beel area in Singra upazila in Natore as they fear storms and rains may damage their crop any time.

PHOTO: ANWAR ALI