



'Being a mentor to other actors is an honour'

Tariq Anam Khan reflects on his illustrious career

National Film Award-winning actor Tariq Anam Khan has been busy working for the silver screen, television, and OTT platforms lately. The actor recently completed shooting for the film, 'Mike'. He is also starring in the second season of the mega series "Gulshan Avenue". The actor talks to The Daily Star about his recent work, and more.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In 1990, you founded the theatre group 'Natyokendra', from where several celebrities emerged including the likes of Tauqir Ahmed, Zahid Hasan, and Mosharraf Karim. How do you look back on that?

I look at all of it very positively. Those actors were able to come this far because of their honesty, effort, and willpower to do well. They are all brilliant without a doubt.

From my side, I opened a medium for the exchange of artistic ideas. It makes me proud when an actor like Mosharraf Karim says that I am his teacher. Being a mentor to other actors is the honour of my life.

Your recent released film 'Mridha Bonam Mridha' was widely appreciated. Why do you think there was such a positive response to the film?

Once upon a time, familial bonds were a central theme in our films and television projects. However, with time, that has



PHOTO: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK

changed. "Mridha Bonam Mridha" beautifully portrayed the relationship between a father and a son. It was an emotional film, which truly touched the hearts of the audience. This was a significant achievement for the cast and crew.

What, according to you, is the biggest achievement of your acting career so far?

People's love is my biggest achievement. The life of an artiste is all about pursuit and patience. Artistes have to wait for a long time to carve a space in the hearts of people through their work. One cannot earn this respect overnight.

You have played a wide range of roles throughout your career. What do you believe is your biggest weakness?

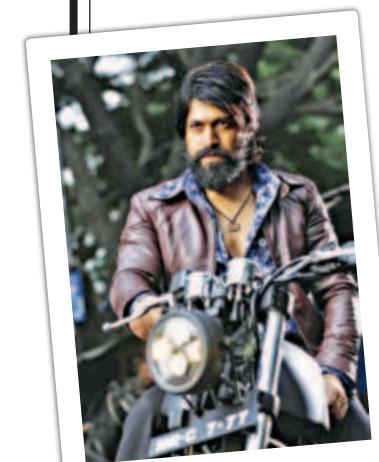
I think acting is my weakness. I want to keep myself immersed in acting. A lot of young directors create characters and even write stories keeping me in mind – that is a privilege for me.

'KGF: Chapter 3' to begin production after October

Noted Indian producer Vijay Kiragandur has confirmed that shooting for the third film in the "KGF" franchise will begin after October, and it will hit theatres in 2024.

The makers plan to create a KGF universe that is similar to the Marvel Cinematic Universe. "Going forward, we are going to create a Marvel kind of universe. We want to bring different characters from different movies and create something like Doctor Strange, so that we can reach a wider audience easily," Kiragandur said in a recent interview.

"KGF: Chapter 2" has grossed over Rs 1,000 crores globally, breaking several records along the way.



Dua Lipa reveals she almost quit music because of online trolls

Dua Lipa revealed that she was at the verge of leaving her music career because of the hate she received online.

In an interview with The Sun, the "Love Again" singer talked about battling self-doubt as she kept receiving messages from trolls online.



She told the outlet, "There were moments of self-doubt, even though it was kind of unfair because a lot of the people that had sent those messages or were saying things online actually hadn't been to one of my shows."

"Social media is kind of run on this toxic currency of who can make people laugh at the expense of others," the singer added. "Now, if anybody says anything, it doesn't even bother me."

COUNTRYWIDE

BRIDGE ON BELAN RIVER

Slow work causes months delay

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Dinajpur

Construction work of a bridge on Belan river could not be completed even after four months of its stipulated deadline due to alleged negligence of the contractor concerned.

Due to the delay, thousands of residents of six villages in Khansama upazila are suffering immensely.

The situation worsened further after the alternative earthen road just beside the under construction one washed away by the current on Sunday.

Locals said inhabitants of five villages -- Baladangi, Dangapara, Khamarpura, Hossainpur, Sahajpur -- are facing serious difficulties to go to Pakerhat, one of the commercial areas in the upazila, in absence of a permanent bridge.

Villagers build a bamboo bridge every year to go to Pakerhat, but that too wash away every time due to strong current on the river, they said.

Later, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) undertook a Tk 3.89 crore project to construct a 35 metre long concrete bridge at Pakerhat.

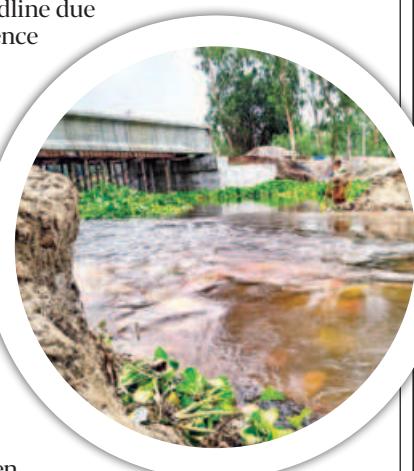
MS Basundhara Construction, a private firm, was given the work order and the construction work was supposed to be started in January, 2021, and completed by January this year.

But the work started six months later from the scheduled time due to unknown reason, locals alleged.

"Farmers are deprived of fair prices of their produce as most of them can't take their crops at Pakerhat Bazar through the alternative way and spending extra money," Masud Rana of Bhandardah village said.

This correspondent could not reach Altaf Hossain, manager of MS Basundhara Construction, for his comment as he did not receive the phone calls.

Khansama Upazila LGED Engineer Mohammad Harun Ur Rashid said the contractor concerned was given a six-month extension to finish the work.



DEARTH OF IRRIGATION WATER

Higher input cost puts Boro farmers in despair

Buri Teesta irrigation project failed by influential quarter

EAM ASADUZZAMAN

Thousands of farmers in Dimla and Jaldhaka upazilas are unable to irrigate their Boro fields due to depletion of the reservoir of Buri Teesta irrigation project in Nilphamari. The farmers have alleged that the situation has arisen due to a decision of the Water Resource Development and Management Committee (WRDMC).

According to local sources, the decision to flush out the water from the reservoir was taken at the behest of some influential people living in the vicinity of the project barrage on the Buri Teesta river.

They applied to the deputy commissioner (DC) a few months ago saying that the reservoir has become silted and its water retention capacity has been reduced due to it.

As a result, the crop fields and houses of the villages located within 7-8 km are being submerged in the water.

The petitioners called for dredging the bottom of the reservoir by opening 14 gates to flush out the water.

Later, a meeting of the WRDMC chaired by the DC decided to flush out water from the reservoir.

At the meeting, however, the Water Development Board (WDB) Nilphamari Division opined not to flush out water from the reservoir in the interest of providing irrigation facilities to the farmers.

WDB also rejected claims that crops and homes in the vicinity of the barrage were submerged.

Later, several thousand beneficiary Boro farmers, in a joint petition to the concerned authorities, demanded uninterrupted irrigation.

But ignoring this demand, the WRDMC headed by the outgoing DC opened the barrage gates and started releasing a certain amount of water from the reservoir.

WDB sources told The Daily Star that the committee had decided to evacuate a certain amount of water from the reservoir. But as the WDB employees went to close the barrage gate, they were beaten up by miscreants at the instigation of the influential quarter.

As the gate was not closed, water continuously flushed out and the reservoir became depleted hampering the irrigation system, it added.

A complaint was also lodged with the Dimla Police Station by the WDB Nilphamari Division in connection with the incident.

Farmers involved in the Buri Teesta irrigation project alleged that influential people living around the barrage area claim to own 1,217 acres of the project's reservoir. They use force to cultivate crops and build infrastructure on those lands.

Sources said that WDB has also filed several cases with the concerned police station in connection with these incidents.

Local WDB sources informed that Buri Teesta irrigation project has 5,500 acres of command area belonging to 8,500 farmers in two upazilas.

In a recent visit to the area, this correspondent found that the reservoir in front of the barrage has turned a grazing field as entire water had been drained out and local grabbers along

with the petitioners occupied vast land to cultivate crops and do different activities.

SR Shafik Sadik, president of Buri Teesta farmers' irrigation management committee, said "WRDMC was misled by a vested quarter and so genuine beneficiaries have been deprived."

"We're now compelled to use diesel-run pumps for irrigation which will increase production cost," said farmer Rashidul Islam of Khariza Golna village.

Ilbe Sayed Shawin, section officer of WDB, said "A section of locals has been hindering Buri Teesta project and their intention is to grab land."

WDB's Sub-divisional Engineer in Nilphamari Abdul Hannan Prodhan said, "As Buri Teesta project has immense potentiality, the government has freshly allocated Tk 120 crore to upgrade it."

Nilphamari DC Khondokar Yasir Arefin who has newly joined here, on contact, said "I'll look into the matter and take proper steps for the sake of farmers' interest as irrigation to them is urgent."



An influential quarter has allegedly got Buri Teesta irrigation project's reservoir emptied causing irrigation crisis for thousands of farmers in Nilphamari's Dimla and Jaldhaka upazila.

PHOTO: STAR