

# I never said anything inappropriate

Sazu Khadem

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Noted television actor Sazu Khadem has been spending busy days on the sets. The actor, who recently hosted Meril-Prothom Alo awards, is now in conversation for his quick wit, as well as three new films this season.

Yesterday marked both his and Dr Enamul Haq's birthday, the latter of whom we lost last year.

We talk to Sazu Khadem about his recent projects, feelings and more.

**This is the first time that you celebrated your birthday without Dr Enamul Haque.** I still find it difficult to believe that he is no longer amongst us. I had never imagined celebrating my birthday without him – my favourite teacher and mentor. He is always in my prayers.

**While your segment at the 23rd Meril-Prothom Alo Awards was appreciated, many also called you out on 'going too far' with your jokes. What do you have to say about it?**

I only hosted a small portion of the event, and I had a lot of fun with it. I do not think that I made any jokes that was too inappropriate – and I do not know where this criticism is coming from.

Some lines, that might be considered as inappropriate, may have come from the other hosts, but I had nothing to do with it.

**You are ever-present on the television screen. How are you coping up with the hectic back-to-back shooting schedules?** Acting is my profession and muse. Just as any job holder would get up and go to work every day, I get up and start getting ready for shoot. I believe in professionalism, and thus, never get bored of my work.

**Who is your idol in this field?**

I look up to many actors, but I dearly miss

watching Humayun Faridee on the screen. His acting brilliance and consistency are always inspiring.

I had an intimate bond with him, and will always love and respect him.

**How can we make our television projects better?**

Tele-fictions are simultaneously entertainment and art. An artiste can do a lot when it comes to bringing about positive change in this society and I believe, tele-fictions play this role actively.

It also works as a mediator when one looks to deliver a social message, and has the power to alter

perception in masses.

**Tell us about your upcoming films.**

I am eagerly looking forward to Aranyo Anawer's "Maa", Manik Manobik's "Ajob Chele" and Hridi Huq's "1971: Sheishob Din". Be it films, television projects, or OTT productions, I just want to keep entertaining my audience through my performances.

Sazu Khadem arriving at the 23rd Meril-Prothom Alo award ceremony.



## Swedish film "Triangle of Sadness" bags Cannes Film Festival's Palme d'Or award

The 75th instalment of the Cannes Film Festival wrapped up recently after two weeks of screening films from all over the world.

The best film award at the Palme d'Or was awarded to the Swedish film Ruben Ostlund directorial "Triangle of Sadness". It is the second time the director bagged one of the cinema's most prestigious prizes.

His last film, "The Square", won the Palme d'Or in 2017.

## Teaser of 'JK 1971' impresses

The official teaser of the first English Language film based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh, "JK 1971", released yesterday to critical acclaim.

The Fakhruel Arefeen Khan directorial project revolves around the historic incident, which took place during the Liberation War of Bangladesh in France. It showcases the unforgettable heroic actions of French citizen Jean Kay.



On December 3, 1971, he hijacked a flight of Pakistan International Airlines at Orly Airport in Paris, and demanded that 20 tons of medical supplies and relief materials be loaded on the plane so that he could set out to reach his desired destination – Bangladesh.

The film stars US actor Francisco Raymond and Russian artistes Derya Guvrosenko and Nikolai

Novominski, alongside Subhra Sourav Das and Sabyasachi Chakrabarty in pivotal roles, among others.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Erosion halts Mujib Killa construction

Unplanned site selection blamed

OUR CORRESPONDENT,  
Lalmonirhat

The construction of a Mujib Killa (elevated structure in flood plains) in the middle of Char Falimari in Mogholhat of Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila has been stopped due to erosion of Dharla river.

The completion of the Killa has become uncertain much to the worry of 300 families living in the char area.

The killa was being constructed just 18-20 metres away from the river.

Char Falimari belongs to the community of fishers and their sufferings know no bounds especially during natural phenomena like floods visit the char. During floods, this char gets submerged. They suffer immensely with their cattle and other belongings. The construction of the Mujib Killa was to provide them with a safe shelter during floods.

The construction work of Mujib Killa has been kept unfinished citing erosion of Dharla. As the construction work has

not been completed, the char people will have to suffer in the coming floods like in past, they said.

Saidul Islam, 48, a resident of Falimari Island, said that it was unplanned site selection that has caused the abandonment of the construction. There is much khas land in this char but the killa was not constructed in a safe site.

"The river was eroding some 100-120 metres away while the construction of the killa started in February 2021," he said adding, that the government fund has been destroyed due to unplanned site selection.

According to Lalmonirhat Sadar upazila administration sources, the construction of Mujib Killa started on February 18 last year at a cost of Taka 2 crore 8 lakh 5 thousand 590 funded by the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief. The work was supposed to be completed on August 17 last

year. A contractor from Dhaka was doing the construction work and received 68 per cent of the bill.

Contractor Shafiq Rahman said he has already removed construction materials from the site.

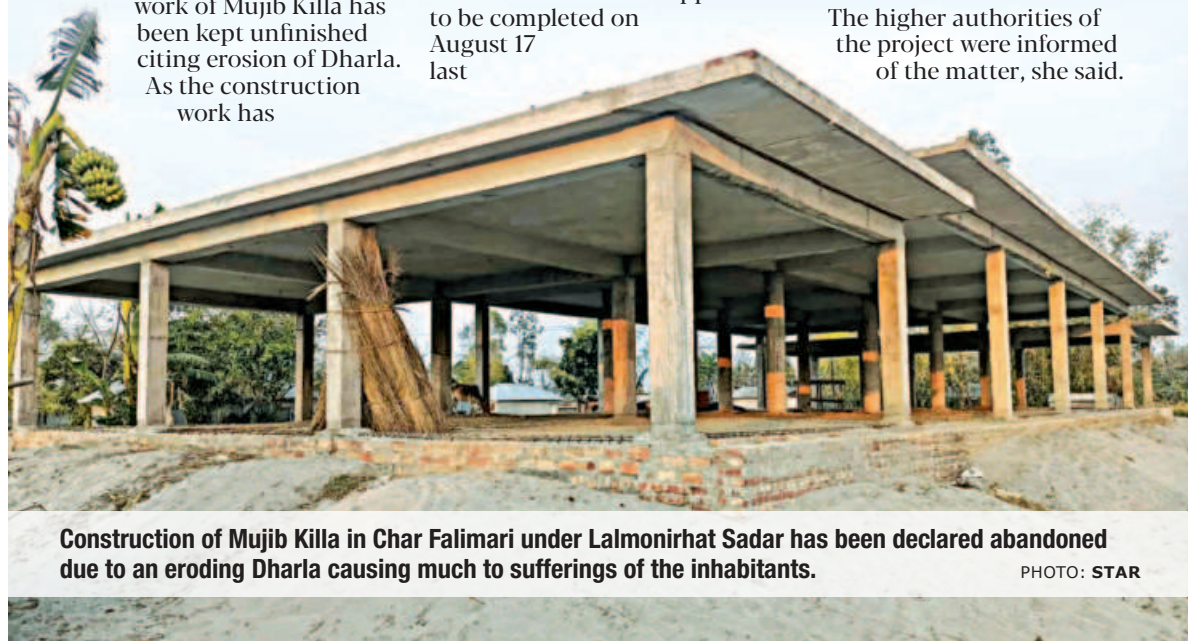
The construction work will resume if the concerned authorities give permission, he said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Project Implementation Officer (PIO) Mashhur Rahman said construction work of the Killa was halted on the instructions of higher authorities.

According to the decision of the higher authorities, the construction work of the killa was started on the site as per the design of 2016, he said.

Lalmonirhat Sadar Upazila Nirbahi Officer (UNO) Mahmuda Masum said that it is not possible to protect the under-construction Mujib Killa without preventing river erosion.

The higher authorities of the project were informed of the matter, she said.



Construction of Mujib Killa in Char Falimari under Lalmonirhat Sadar has been declared abandoned due to an eroding Dharla causing much to sufferings of the inhabitants.

PHOTO: STAR

## JCD leader

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She first went to Shahbagh Police Station to file the case, but police refused to record her statement, according to the complaint. But Moudut Hawlader, officer-in-charge of the police station, said no JCD activist went to the police station to file a case.

After recording the case, the magistrate directed the officer-in-charge of the police station to investigate the allegation and submit a report to the court by June 26, said Syed Nazrul Islam, a lawyer of the plaintiff.

BCL leaders and activists on Thursday attacked JCD activists with machetes, sticks and other local weapons when the former were coming towards the campus from Doyel Chatter to take part in an event, said the complaint.

On DU campus, eight progressive student organisations yesterday held a rally demanding congenial atmosphere for students.

On Thursday, some 50 people, including a journalist and a lawyer, were injured as armed members of BCL activists and leaders swooped on JCD leaders and activists in the High Court area, just two days after some 30 JCD members, including several women, were injured as BCL activists and leaders attacked them with sticks, iron rods and machetes on the campus.

## Ukraine holds

FROM PAGE 12

"I do not believe that we can restore all of our territory by military means. If we decide to go that way, we will lose hundreds of thousands of people," he said.

## Plane missing

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members on board the missing plane, which left for the town of Jomson at 9:55 am (0410 GMT), airline spokesman Sudarshan Bartaula told AFP.

## Both contact families

FROM PAGE 12

went to the European country on a 15-day trip on May 9, officials said.

Speaking to The Daily Star yesterday, Rasel's elder sister Kamala Pal said, "Rasel told our elder brother [Subhas] that he won't return home. Now he is in the Netherlands. He called my Dubai expatriate brother from an unknown number."

Rasel's parents and wife reside in Cox's Bazar municipality.

Quoting Subhas, Kamala said Rasel did not disclose his whereabouts. He just said he needed some money, but his brother refused and asked Rasel to return home.

"Hearing this, Rasel hung up and switched off his phone," she said.

Kamala added that the Cox's Bazar police superintendent talked to her parents at his office on Saturday.

The family of another missing constable Shah

Alam lives in Chaudhagram upazila.

Shuvo Ranjan Chakma, officer-in-charge of Chaudhagram Police Station, said Shah Alam's father is a rickshaw-puller and his mother works at a government official's house as domestic help.

"His family members said they don't know the whereabouts of Shah Alam. He called his father [after May 22] from a foreign number," the OC told this correspondent.

## Cumilla city polls

FROM PAGE 12

election ... Remember, voting is a citizen's responsibility and duty."

The CEC added that in case of difficulty in EVM use, election officials will be responsible to fix it. He also said the EC can, in special cases, cancel the election and candidature of aspirants.

Meanwhile, local police

and the administration will help the candidates in case of complaints, the CEC said.

At the meeting, independent candidate Mohammad Nizam Uddin said, "I became a candidate after leaving the party. I'm worried about the election atmosphere, and voters too are worried whether they will be able to rightfully

cast their votes. We don't want a 'midnight polls' like in the last parliamentary election."

This led several ruling Awami League men to begin yelling at him.

Cumilla DC Kamrul Hasan and city Awami League Joint General Secretary Atiqullah Khokon later calmed the situation.

## Zia's 41st death anniv today

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The programmes will end on June 7.

The events include arranging discussions, seminars, photo exhibitions, wearing black badges, publishing posters and supplements in newspapers and distributing food and relief materials among the poor.

Zia, who founded Bangladesh Nationalist Party in 1978, was assassinated by a group of disgruntled army officers at the erstwhile Chittagong circuit house on May 30, 1981.

In observance of the day, black flags will be hoisted and BNP flags will be flown at half-mast atop

the offices of the party and its associated bodies today.

Besides, BNP senior leaders, led by party Secretary General Mirza Fakhruel Islam Alamgir, will place wreaths at Zia's grave at the capital's Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the morning.

BNP and its associated bodies will arrange discussions on Zia's activities until June 7 as part of the death anniversary programmes.

The party leaders of Dhaka south and north city units will distribute food and relief materials among the poor in different parts of the city.

All of the party's district, city and thana units will

also observe the day holding various programmes, including discussions, to be participated by senior BNP leaders.

## Dolphins

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Gabriella La Manna and her team at the University of Sassari in Italy studied the whistling habits of common bottlenose dolphins (Tursiops truncatus) in six geographically distinct populations in the Mediterranean Sea.

The sites include Port Cros in the French Riviera, Alghero in the Sardinian Sea and Ostia-Fiumicino in the Tyrrhenian Sea – all in the western Mediterranean region.