

# Two decades in showbiz for Sajal

Cinema is one of the greatest forms of art, which keeps an artist alive for years. I want to make such a place for myself in films, and I am working very hard to achieve that goal.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

In his twenty-year career, Sajal has marked a special place in the industry not only for his acting prowess, for his chocolate boy image as well.

He has several silver-screen projects under his belt, having recently completed shooting for a film based on the Liberation War. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, he opens up about his acting career, upcoming projects, and more.

What projects are you currently working on?

I have recently completed shooting for the film “Subornobhumi”, directed by Jahid Hossain.

Another project, “1971 Sheishob Din” being directed by Hridi Haq, and Ananno Mamun’s “Jahanara”.

Could you tell us more about ‘Subhornobhumi’?

It is based on the Liberation War of Bangladesh. Personally, I have weakness for scripts on our Liberation War, as it is our pride. Freedom fighters are honoured through the cinema of the Liberation War.

What role are you playing in this movie?

I will be portraying the role of a freedom fighter, who is a writer. The writer narrates the story about the events of the war, in his novel called, “Shubornobhumi”. It was a challenging character for me.

What are your plans other than cinema?

Cinema is one of the greatest forms of art, which keeps an artist alive for years. I want to make such a place for myself in films, and I am working very hard to achieve that goal.

This year marks two decades of your acting career. Any epiphanies?

I am grateful to everyone who I have come across, and helped me to be where I am today. My audience loves me, my co-stars support me. I am satisfied with all of my achievements.



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SAJAL



Sajal in “Subornobhumi”



## Tahsan and Tanjin Tisha’s ‘Money Machine’ to release online

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Tanjin Tisha and Tahsan’s web film “Money Machine” will be released on June 4 RTV plus at 8pm. The web film was first premiered in RTV during Eid.

Directed by Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz, the crime thriller revolves around a couple who gets involved in a wicked scheme of ‘money exchange’.

Apart from Tanjin Tisha and Tahsan, the web film also stars Shatabdi Wadud, Monira Akter Mithu in pivotal roles.

## Queen Elizabeth bestows Nadia Samdani with MBE award

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned British-Bangladeshi art patron Nadia Samdani has been appointed as a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by Queen Elizabeth II. MBE is considered the third highest-ranking Order of the British Empire award.

She was given the prestigious title due to her prolific service of global art philanthropy and promotion of arts in Bangladesh, South Asia, and the United Kingdom.

Nadia Samdani, along with her husband Rajeeb Samdani are the co-founders of the Samdani Art Foundation. They are best known for Dhaka Art Summit, which brings together curators, artists, and other arts professionals from around the globe.

They were the first South Asians to be honoured with the prestigious Montblanc de la Culture Arts Patronage award in 2017.



# NEWS

## Ancient Mayan maize god

FROM PAGE 12  
environment,” the institute added.

The discovery “allows us to begin to know how the ancient Maya of Palenque constantly relived the mythical passage of the birth, death and resurrection of the maize deity,” said researcher

Arnoldo Gonzalez Cruz.

As the piece was found in humid conditions, it is in the process of gradually drying out before it is restored, the institute said.

Last week, archaeologists have uncovered the ruins of an ancient Mayan city filled with palaces, pyramids and plazas on a construction

site of what will become an industrial park near Merida, on Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula.

The site, called Xiol, has features of the Mayan Puuc style of architecture, archaeologists said, which is common in the southern Yucatan Peninsula but rare near Merida.

## Now potato

FROM PAGE 12  
village in Munshiganj Sadar Upazila, said his production cost was Tk 18-19 a kg but he is selling his harvest at Tk 16-17 to wholesalers.

Contacted, Asif Al Azad, assistant director of the Directorate of National Consumers Right Protection in Munshiganj, said: “We have not received any complaint from any consumers regarding the crisis of potatoes and its price hike. Potato supplies are sufficient – we have kept watch on the market.”

## Pakistan risks

FROM PAGE 12  
interview with anchorperson Sami Ibrahim for Bol News programme Tajzia.

Imran further said there was “no question” of returning to the National Assembly as that would “mean accepting the conspiracy” that had removed his government.

He said he was waiting for the apex court to decide on his party’s plea to provide protection to the protestors, after which he said he would issue the date for the next march.

Last month, Imran Khan gave government a 6-day ultimatum to announce new election date after leading thousands of supporters to the capital Islamabad in a showdown with his political rivals.

During the interview, the PTI chief admitted he did not enjoy absolute power as the prime minister, indicating that the actual centres of power in the country lay elsewhere and “everyone knows where that is.”

“Pakistan is going towards a default. If that happens then which institution will be [worst] hit? The army. After it is hit, what concession will be taken from us? Denuclearisation.”

## Anti-hoarding drives

FROM PAGE 1  
The drive was led by Aminul Islam, assistant commissioner of Rangpur DC office, on Wednesday.

Reiterating the need to strengthen the drive against illegal hoarders, Food Minister Sadhan Chandra Majumder has directed all local administrations to increase monitoring and stop big corporations from procuring rice and paddy if they do not have their own mills.

At a recent virtual views-exchange meeting on “market monitoring and Boro rice procurement” with the divisional and deputy commissioners of Chattogram and Sylhet, he asked them to ensure no one is involved in the rice business without a license.

“Prices of rice and wheat are decreasing in neighbouring countries. We won’t let anyone try to destabilise the market,” he said, adding that the government will open up the import of rice after tax reduction.

“Although excessive rains and early floods caused some production losses, there will still be sufficient yield as we had additional fields for Boro cultivation this year.”

Speaking at the inauguration of Pabna’s litchi fair, he said as the prices of food grains have increased in the international market due to the pandemic and the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war, local businessmen are taking the opportunity to make an extra profit.

“The government has already started raids against big hoarders across the country to prevent the artificial crisis.”

Earlier, Benojir Alam, director general at the Department of Agricultural Extension, said there was no shortage of rice in the market because farmers cultivated Boro on 49.63 lakh hectares, which is 90,000 hectares more than last year.

Yesterday, the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry held a views-exchange meeting on the

import stock, supply and prices of essentials at its Motijheel office.

Showing his support to the drive, FBCCI President Jashim Uddin said, “You just cannot increase prices whenever you get an opportunity.”

On behalf of the rice traders, Amitabh Chakraborty, advisor of City Group, said, “Only 1 percent of the traders are involved in illegal hoarding. All traders will not take responsibility for it. There is enough rice supply and so, there will be no problem.”

Imail Hossain, chairman of Boishakhi Automatic Rice Mills Ltd in Bogura, said that millers are now selling the rice they had procured much earlier. He claimed they did not get their rice on time due to a delay in delivery.

(Our Dinajpur, Pabna and Savar Correspondent contributed to the report.)

## Shut errant tanneries now

FROM PAGE 12  
Star that over six months have passed since they recommended closing down the tanneries that have no effluent treatment plants (ETPs) to treat the solid and liquid waste.

“But whenever the environment ministry asked the industries ministry about the follow-up in shutting down such tanners, the latter made various lame excuses. They said they were holding meetings, appointing consultants to close the errant tanneries,” said Saber, also a ruling Awami League lawmaker.

“They [the industries ministry] are deliberately wasting time in shutting down such tanneries, which is not acceptable,” he added.

The environment ministry told the parliamentary body that

they wrote to the industries ministry last week to close the errant tanneries soon.

In the meeting, the committee also discussed construction of a road in the safari park in Lathitila reserve forest in Moulvibazar’s Juri upazila.

In this regard, Saber said it was decided in the meeting that the forestland would be measured before construction of the road. No roads would be built in the reserve forest, he said.

He added that Environment Minister Shahab Uddin agreed on this.

Meanwhile, the environment minister yesterday told a press conference that the government has taken up a project to construct a safari park in Lathitila reserve forest to save the forestland from encroachment.

“There are empty spaces

in the forest and already many families are living in the forest. If we don’t establish the safari park, more people will build houses there,” he said at the briefing held in the secretariat.

But he refrained from replying to a question about the Local Government Engineering Department’s initiative of constructing a road inside the reserve forest after felling trees.

The minister said it is hard to keep the desired forest area in a densely populated country like Bangladesh.

Currently, Bangladesh has around 22.37 percent tree-covered area and around 14.01 percent forest area. The government has set a target to increase the tree-covered area to 25 percent and 16 percent forest area by 2030, said sources at the ministry.

## Johnny Depp

FROM PAGE 12  
Jurors awarded Depp \$15 million in damages from Heard, which the judge reduced to \$10.35 million to comply with state limits on punitive damages. The panel ordered Depp to pay Heard \$2 million in damages.

Depp, 58, had sued Heard for \$50 million and argued that she defamed him when she called herself “a

public figure representing domestic abuse” in a newspaper opinion piece.

Heard countersued for \$100 million, saying Depp smeared her when his lawyer called her accusations a “hoax.”

Depp denied hitting Heard, 36, or any woman and said she was the one who turned violent in their relationship.

He told jurors the

allegations from Heard, best known for her role in “Aquaman,” had cost him “everything.” A new “Pirates” movie was put on hold and Depp was replaced in the “Fantastic Beasts” film franchise, a “Harry Potter” spinoff.

“The jury gave me my life back. I am truly humbled,” Depp, who watched the verdict from Britain, said in a statement.