# ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

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.

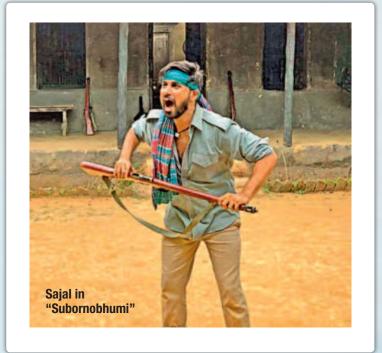
SHAH ALAM SHAZU

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



Another project, 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

#### What role are you playing in this movie?

through the cinema of the

Liberation War.

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

### What are your plans other than

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

### 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.



### 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

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

Apart from Tanjin Tisha and Tahsan, the webfilm 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

The discovery "allows us to begin to know how the ancient Maya of Palengue constantly relived mythical passage deity," said researcher

Star that over six months

have passed since they

down the tanneries that

have no effluent treatment

ministry about the follow-

up in shutting down such

tanners, the latter made

various lame excuses. They

said they were holding

consultants to close the

errant tanneries," said

League lawmaker.

Saber, also a ruling Awami

ministry] are deliberately

wasting time in shutting

down such tanneries,

which is not acceptable,"

parliamentary body that

"They [the industries

solid and liquid waste.

closing

ministry

industries

appointing

"But whenever the Moulvibazar's Juri upazila.

He

this.

Environment

environment

the from encroachment.

conference that

recommended

environment

asked the

meetings,

in humid conditions, it is Merida, in the process of gradually drying out before it is restored, the institute said.

plazas on a construction near Merida.

the errant tanneries soon.

plants (ETPs) to treat the in the safari park in the briefing held in the

meeting that the forestland

No roads would be built in

added

Shahab Uddin agreed on

the reserve forest, he said.

Lathitila reserve forest in secretariat.

Shut errant tanneries now

Arnoldo Gonzalez Cruz. site of what will become village in Munshiganj FROM PAGE 1 As the piece was found an industrial park near on Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula.

The site, called Xiol, has features of the Mayan Lastweek, archaeologists Puuc style of architecture, have uncovered the ruins of archaeologists said, which of the birth, death and an ancient Mayan city filled is common in the southern resurrection of the maize with palaces, pyramids and Yucatan Peninsula but rare

in the forest. If we don't

But he refrained from

Engineering Department's

The minister said it is

hard to keep the desired

forest area in a densely

populated country like

around 14.01 percent forest

forest area by 2030, said

Bangladesh

Bangladesh.

Currently,

minister has around 22.37 percent

forest after felling trees.

they wrote to the industries in the forest and already

ministry last week to close many families are living

In the meeting, the establish the safari park,

In this regard, Saber replying to a question about

said it was decided in the Local Government

would be measured before initiative of constructing

construction of the road. a road inside the reserve

yesterday told a press tree-covered area and

government has taken up a area. The government has

project to construct a safari set a target to increase

park in Lathitila reserve the tree-covered area to

forest to save the forestland 25 percent and 16 percent

the

that

Minister

committee also discussed more people will build

construction of a road houses there," he said at

### Now potato

FROM PAGE 12

Sadar Upazila, said his 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

Imran further 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.

leading thousands

PTI chief admitted he did not enjoy absolute power as the that the actual centres of power in the country lay elsewhere and "everyone knows where that is."

"Pakistan is 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?

## Anti-hoarding drives

PHOTOS: COURTESY OF SAJAL

The drive production cost was Tk 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 viewsexchange 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,"

was led by government will the import of rice after tax reduction.

PRODUCTION RICE **OVERVIEW** The agriculture ministry

estimated Aush production at 3.48 million tonnes, Aman at 15.05 million and Boro at 20.95 for the 2021-22 fiscal.

However, Bangladesh already Bureau of Statistics data showed that Aush production was 3 million tonnes -- 13.8 percent less than the target set by the Ministry of Agriculture. Claiming

Bangladesh is not facing any crisis of grains, Agriculture Minister Dr Muhammad Abdur Razzaque said, "Although excessive rains and early floods caused than last year. some production losses, there will still be sufficient yield as we had additional fields for Boro cultivation and Industry held a views- and Savar Correspondent this year."

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

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

director general at the Department of Agricultural there will be no problem." 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

Yesterday, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce

prices of essentials at its Motijheel office. Showing his support to

Jashim Uddin said, "You just cannot increase prices whenever you get an 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 Earlier, Benojir Alam, responsibility for it. There is enough rice supply and so,

> Ismail 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 exchange meeting on the contributed to the report.)

### "There are empty spaces sources at the ministry. Johnny Depp

environment

he added.

Jurors awarded Depp \$15 million in damages from newspaper opinion piece. Heard, which the judge to comply with state limits panel ordered Depp to accusations a "hoax." pay Heard \$2 million in

that she defamed him relationship. when she called herself "a

domestic abuse" in a Heard

countersued reduced to \$10.35 million for \$100 million, saying on punitive damages. The his lawyer called her

Depp denied hitting Heard, 36, or any woman Depp,58, had sued Heard and said she was the one for \$50 million and argued who turned violent in their

He told jurors the

public figure representing allegations from Heard, best known for her role in "Aquaman," had cost him "everything." A new "Pirates" movie was put Depp smeared her when 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.

anchorperson Ibrahim for Bol

programme Tajzia. said there was "no question" of returning to the National Assembly as that would "mean accepting the

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

During the interview, the prime minister, indicating

Denuclearisation.'

### CAB comes up with alternative solutions maritime University Badrul Imam

prices. It's the job of the Bangladesh Energy Regulatory Commission. We wanted adjustment of the prices. We are trying to keep the prices affordable the consumers.... Moreover, it is the prime minister's ministry and she

will make the decisions. "If we didn't collect revenue, the question of giving subsidy would not have arisen. We collect revenues in one hand, and give subsidies on the other to only those who need it. Otherwise, we use the revenue for development purposes," he said.

Architect Mubasshar Hussein said, "We didn't try to explore gas in the Bay of Bengal [after winning the legal battle with Myanmar

over the boundary dispute in been exploring gas in their sea territories.

He said Bangladesh highest the reached electricity production capacity, but failed to uninterrupted power to consumers. He said he had to spend Tk 6,000-9,000 a month for buying generator fuel as he didn't get uninterrupted electricity at his house.

convener of the National Committee for Formulating Energy Transition Policy, emphasised on using renewable energy, including solar power.

Former Geology Professor

said, "We are importing LNG the Bay of Bengal], but instead of putting enough Myanmar and India have emphasis on exploration of here. international spot market is increasing the government's total expenditure."

About the exploration of gas in the sea, Nasrul said it is not something that a decision is made today and exploration of gas starts tomorrow.

"We always had a gap of 700-800 mmcfd (million Mubasshar, also the cubic feet daily) gas between the demand and supply and that's why we started importing the energy."

He said it is true that Bangladesh has a daily electricity capacity of around 25,000 Dhaka megawatts, but it cannot

16,000MW. "There is no overcapacity

Of the new wells. Only five percent production capacity, we LNG import from the need 10 percent derated capacity and 10 percent for various services. You always talk about capacity charges. Basically, it is the government's cost for paying the rent of a power plant. The owners of the rental power plants need to pay the bank loan interest and pay their staffers," he added.

> Dhaka University professors MM Akash and Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, and Bangladesh Textile Mills Association Director Razib Haider, also production spoke at the event, chaired by CAB President Ghulam Rahman.