



The state of our cinema halls breaks my heart

Zahid Hasan

PHOTOS: COLLECTED FROM FACEBOOK

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Zahid Hasan is one of the most celebrated actors of our entertainment industry. He reigned over the small screens during the 90s. Beginning his acting career with theatre, he simultaneously worked in television and in films for over three decades, and is still going strong. The Daily Star spoke to the 3-time National Award winner to know about his career, future plans, and more.

You are working at the same pace as you were in the 90s. Where do you get the energy?
I am grateful to the Almighty for the strength to work consistently. I am living my childhood dream for decades – being an

actor is all I've ever wanted. Without honesty, sincerity and a lot of struggles, I wouldn't have been who I am today.

We know that you have directed many plays in theatre. Have you ever thought of directing films?



Not that I never pondered on the idea, but I do not want to do it. Cinema is made for big screens, but sadly, our cinema halls are on a rapid decline, and this breaks my heart. This is why, even after having the urge to direct, I don't want to make films.

Directors are still making films, regardless of so many limitations.
It is definitely appreciable. Even in the midst of so many hurdles and crises, the courageous directors deserve praise. I am

sure that our film industry will flourish once again, and these persistent artistes will be the reason behind it.

You have won the National Film Award three times. What expectations do you have from the film fraternity as an actor?

Awards are a benchmark of our contributions. It is the recognition of an actor's hard work, and it tends to raise any artiste's sense of responsibility. I dream about portraying better characters than those that I am playing now. I want to discover myself in a new way, by playing challenging characters over and again. OTT is arguably the future of the industry, and you are working on quite a few projects. What has the experience been, working on this medium?
Regardless of the medium, the art of acting will remain the same. However, OTT is now the need of the hour in our industry, bringing about many innovations. I am hopeful about the projects that I will star in on this platform.



Lady Gaga in talks to play Harley Quinn in 'Joker 2'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

"Joker 2", which is currently rumoured to be musical, might be starring Lady Gaga in the role of Harley Quinn alongside Joaquin Phoenix's Joker. This will mark the singer's first appearance as a superhero if everything goes according to plan. Director Todd Phillips recently posted a cover of the "Joker: Folie à Deux" screenplay to his Instagram on June 7. "Folie à Deux" means a shared delusional disorder. There were speculations amongst fans that Joker's companion, other than Batman, could only refer to Harley Quinn. Lady Gaga and Todd Phillips have previously worked together in 2018's "A Star Is Born."

BTS's 'Proof' sells over 2 million copies on day one

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

K-pop sensation BTS latest anthology album "Proof" sold over 2 million copies on the first day. Its title track "Yet to Come" has become the first song to reach the number one spot on Melon's rebranded Top 100 chart. "Proof" became the second best-selling album on day one in the Hanteo chart, being beaten by BTS's "Map of the Soul: 7", which sold around 2.6 million copies on day one. BTS "Proof" includes many old songs, solo tracks, and unreleased demo versions. The album consists of three new songs – "Yet to Come", "RUN BTS", and "For Youth."



COUNTRYWIDE

FARIDPUR BUS TERMINAL

A nightmare for passengers

SUZIT KUMAR DAS

Faridpur Municipal Bus Terminal has turned out to be a nightmare for both the passengers and transport workers due to lack of renovation works for a long time. A little to moderate rains flood the entire bus terminal causing immense sufferings. Bus staffers using the terminal said that poor drainage has added to their woes. Most of the drains have become clogged with garbage leading to waterlogging. The situation is so abominable as human wastes from terminal toilets often float in the rainwaters and this problem is persistent for all the year round, they said. Currently, 212 long haul buses and 173 minibuses leave the terminal for different destinations daily. However, due to low capacity of the terminal, more than 100 buses cannot be kept standby in the terminal, they added. During a recent visit to the terminal, it was seen that the whole terminal has been plagued with small and large potholes filled with rainwaters. Passengers, bus drivers and staffs have no choice but to walk through the puddle to get on or off the buses.

Md Saha Jalal, 46, a driver of Balaka Paribahan, said "The terminal was built on the west side of Dhaka-Barishal highway in Goalchamot area of Faridpur town 18 years ago. Just one and half years into its launching, cracks appeared on the terminal building. But no renovation work has been taken yet. Passengers and bus staffs often fall into the murky water on the terminal." Another bus driver Badal Matubbar said "We face a lot of problems getting the buses in and out of the terminal. Sometimes bumpers of the bus break. It doesn't look like a bus terminal." Mosharrar Hossain, a counter master of Faridpur District Bus Owners' Association, said that sometimes some bricks are laid to fill the holes. After two to three days, the bricks get unsettled. Small vehicles like battery-run easy bikes and rickshaws fall into the holes, leaving passengers in deep trouble. Abdus Sabur Mia, a passenger of Rajbari-bound bus, said, "Getting on the bus is very troublesome for us. Women and children are the worst sufferers. We want a quick solution." Hasina Yasmin, a passenger of a Magura-bound bus, said "It is awful

for us to enter this terminal. We have to face difficulty getting on a bus with kids and bags." Jobayar Zakir, president of Faridpur Motors Workers Union, said "The bus terminal is leased out annually. Every day the leaseholder gets Tk 20 from each bus. So, the lessees of the bus terminal have some responsibilities to repair the terminal." Kamrul Islam Siddiqui, former president of the district bus owners' group, who has got the lease of the terminal for this fiscal year, said "I have leased this terminal from the 1st Baishakh. The previous leaseholders did not do anything regarding the matter. I will try to keep the terminal operational. The terminal belongs to the Faridpur municipality. It is their responsibility to repair it. I will sit with the municipal mayor on this issue." Amitabh Bose, the mayor of Faridpur municipality, said that after taking charge in January 2021, he renovated the bus terminal at a cost of Tk 1.5 lakh. "Due to lack of funds, we cannot not take any renovation work at this moment. But we will work to make the drainage system of the terminal operational," he said.



Passengers have to walk through murky waters while boarding a bus as Faridpur Bus Terminal remains water logged all year round.

PHOTO: STAR

ACC unsure

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is free to probe money laundering. Mahbub in reply said several other organisations investigate offences related to money laundering. "According to the amended Money Laundering Act, the ACC is only authorised to investigate laundering committed by government officials... the ACC will carry out its operations according to the law," Mahbub said. The ACC secretary held the press briefing on the approval of the charge sheet in a case against Mahbubul Haque Chisty, former chairman of the erstwhile Farmers Bank, (later renamed Padma Bank) and five others for misappropriating about Tk 69 crore. The ACC will soon submit the charge sheet to the court, he said. On Friday, Transparency International Bangladesh in a statement asked the government to withdraw the proposal of giving the opportunity to bring back "laundered money" from abroad. "It is completely unconstitutional, conflicting to respective acts, discriminatory and tantamount to protecting disgraceful offence by the state," it said.

Ex-Ducusu

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the matter. In the case statement, Yasir alleged that Nur on June 1 made "derogatory comments" about Hasina, Nowfel, Chhatra League and Jubo League on a website called Bangla News BD and also posted it on Facebook.

HC blasts ACC, cops for failure

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crore embezzlement case and also asked the authorities concerned of the government to impose a travel ban on the 15. The ACC filed the case with its integrated office in Dhaka on June 9 last year against 17 people, including 16 former officials of AB Bank. According to the case statement, the accused former bank officials forged signatures, abused their power by giving six fake work orders and seven illegal bank guarantees without approval, and took out loans worth Tk 176.18 crore. Afterwards, they transferred the money to

their personal accounts. The accused are: Proprietor of Ershad Brothers Corporation Ershad Ali; former Executive Vice-President (EVP) and Branch Manager (now retired) of AB Bank ABM Abdus Sattar; former AVP and Relationship Manager Abdur Rahim; SVP and former Relationship Manager Anisur Rahman; AVP Ruhul Amin and Shahidul Islam; EVP and Head of CRM at head office Wasika Afrazi; former VP Mufit Mustafizur Rahman; former SE VP and Head of CRM (now retired) Salma Akhter; AVP OCRM member of Head Office Mohammad Emarat

Hassan Fakir; former Principal Officer of AB Bank (currently Principal Officer of Mutual Trust Bank) Touhidul Islam; member of SVP and CRM of AB Bank Shamim-e-Mershed; member of VP and CRM of the same bank at head Office Khandaker Rashed Anwar; member of AVP and CRM Sirajul Islam; VP and member of Credit Committee of AB Bank Mohammad Mahfuz-ul-Islam; former DMD and MD (now retired) and Head of Credit Committee of AB Bank Ltd (Head Office) Moshirur Rahman Chowdhury; former MD (now retired) AB Bank Shamim Ahmed Chowdhury.

13 UPs go to polls in Banshkhali

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said Kamal Uddin, officer-in-charge of Banshkhali Police Station. POLLS VIOLENCE
At least 20 people, including two policemen, were injured in clashes at Paraikora union in Anwara upazila on Monday. Supporters of the ruling Awami League candidate and independent candidate Nazim Uddin Sujan was previously

The supporters of AL candidate Azizul Haque Chowdhury were attacked while campaigning, said locals. The activists of five independent candidates attacked them in Chhattar Hat, Kaliganj Bridge, Lalar Hat, Mahata and Deutala areas, they said. The incidents happened as an independent candidate Nazim Uddin Sujan was previously

attacked by the AL activists, they added. On information, police rushed to the spot and dispersed the groups. Two policemen were injured in brickbats at that time, said Anwara Police Station OC Didarul Islam Sikder. Contacted, MA Mannan Chowdhury, president of Anwara upazila unit AL, said they were preparing to take legal actions.

49 villages in need

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farmer from Tinghari para village, said he incurred a loss of around Tk 10 lakh as flood water washed fish away from his four ponds. Like him, many other local fish farmers suffered financial losses. Azizur Rahman, upazila project implementation officer, said they have distributed dry food worth about Tk 3 lakh among the flood victims. In Pabna, the Jamuna

has been swelling for a few days creating fear among the locals that it may flow above the danger level soon. Low lying areas in Sirajganj and villages adjoining the Chalan Beel have gone under water as the water levels in the Jamuna, Fulzore, Karatoa, Boral and some other rivers keep rising. Our correspondents S Dilip Roy and Ahmed Humayun Kabir Topu contributed to this report.

Take holiday

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The extra day off would be a "solution to the food shortage that is expected to occur in the future", the statement read, adding that cutting down on civil servant commutes would also help reduce fuel consumption. Last week the United Nations warned Sri Lanka was facing a "dire humanitarian crisis", and said four out of five people in the nation of 22 million were forced to skip meals.