

# How will Nirab fare in 'Omanush'?

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Nirab Hossain made his name as a model in TVCs, and has now spent a decade in films. The actor will be sharing the screen with Rafiath Rashid Mithila for the first time, in Anonno Mamun's "Omanush", which will be released today in 40 theatres across the country.

The actor shared with us his experience, expectations and more on the film.

**Tell us about your role in 'Omanush'.**

I played the role of a marauder named Osman in the film. I have never a character like that during my career. Upon signing the film, I did a lot of research on the character, who is fierce and extremely violent by nature.

**What kind of makeover did you need to get for the role?**

When the director asked me to cut my hair, I was at a dilemma at first. I was also committed to other projects at that time, however, I then made up my mind to make the sacrifice for this project, as the script fascinated me a lot.

I also want to share that it was not easy to become Osman. To complete the makeup for a day's shoot, it would take between two and three hours. It was very painful. But in the end, it makes me happy to see the great response from the audience after the release of the poster and trailer of the film.

**This is the first time you have paired up with Mithila, it is also her first film.**

Mithila and I have shared a great bond since our modelling days. I am glad that we got the opportunity to be co-stars, that too in her first film. Mithila's performance in the movie was great as well.

**Why is the movie titled "Omanush"?**

The story of the film is not conventional. It is loosely based on real incidents of how robbers operate their actions—how violent they can get; how terrible and inhumane society considers them. The audience will be able to experience fear, anxiety, and suspense throughout the film. It will teleport the audience to the setting of a jungle, leaving them entertained.



## Ryan Gosling's dreamy look in first photo for 'Barbie'

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Social media has been taken by storm, after seeing the first photo of Ryan Gosling as Ken, for the upcoming "Barbie" movie, which will star Margot Robbie in the lead role. In the photo the 41-year-old actor looks tanned, toned and ready for the role in the live-action film.

Gosling looks absolutely dreamy, with a tan—that's almost bordering on being orange. His, platinum blonde hair (most likely dyed) contrasts the hot pink backdrop. The pink backdrops are likely to be a theme for the movie, seeing as it is "Barbie" after all.

"Barbie" is scheduled to hit the theatres on July 21, 2023.



## Aamir Khan's 'Lagaan' to be adapted to Broadway

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Aamir Khan's superhit movie "Lagaan" might soon be adapted as a Broadway show in the UK. "The West End Theatre" has approached Aamir Khan and its producer to get rights for the adaptation.



Aamir Khan is yet to make any decisions but if it gets finalised then it would open many global doors for the movie. The makers are also planning to do a worldwide tour which will feature the original cast. "Lagaan" recently completed its

21 years on Wednesday and it is the third Indian film to be nominated at the Oscars for its marvellous content.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## NATIONAL BUDGET

# What farmers gained

SHYKH SERAJ

Dear readers, we all know countries across the world are now facing challenges of inflation arising from the Ukraine-Russia war. It is hurting the global economy. Bangladesh has also been affected and facing difficulties to cope with the situation. Thus, the global commodity market is also facing instability due to disruption in supply chain. We are already under inflationary pressure and the price hike went almost unbearable for general people. On the other hand, foreign currency reserves went down. The impact of the three Cs: climate change, COVID-19 and conflict



PHOTO: HRIDOYE MATI O MANUSH

which is only 6.2 percent of the total budget. He mentioned about an increase in subsidy on fertilizer from Tk 12,000 crore (2021-2022) to Tk 16,000 crore.

One of my key observations is how long we would continue to depend on imports. Although we have been able to be self-sufficient in producing a variety of agricultural products since our independence, there are many products we have to import. Our population is increasing while the land is decreasing very fast. However, I must say, our farmers have done excellent during the COVID days and that is why we are still food secure. But to address the issue of not getting a fair price is yet to be resolved. Perhaps, some young entrepreneurs who are using digital platforms are gaining profits, but the majority of the farmers are still troubled by the intermediaries. Modern farming systems have spread across the world and we need to emphasize this for ultimate sustainability. We all know how much farmers are spending on poultry, fisheries and livestock feed. The price is going up and we must take immediate measures to stop it, otherwise, the marginal farmers would perish. Before the pandemic, I used to hear about similar complaints from farmers at the field-level pre-budget discussions among farmers and policymakers across the country. The field event is popularly known as, Krishi Budget Krishoker Budget (Farmers' Voices in Budget). We need to increase our capacity in fertilizer production. Most importantly, there should be more collaboration and coordination among the ministries so that we could face the problems with courage and resolve them.

Farmers are facing serious troubles due to the recent hike in feed price. Many small farmers are shutting down their poultry farms, while marginal fish farmers are in a dilemma whether they should continue their farming or not. Even the farm-labourer

cost has increased. When it came to cattle farming, small entrepreneurs are hit hard and the larger ones are facing it with their own capacity. I must say, the anomaly in feed price hike is nothing new, it has been going on and on for years. In the meantime, the fishery and livestock sectors have grown much bigger. Bangladesh produces fish worth around 45 lakh tonnes every year. Poultry has about 1 percent contribution to the GDP. Each year, cattle farms are increasing at a rate of 25 percent. As a result, employment has increased in this sector. However, the feed price is rising and its quality is declining day by day. I didn't notice any significant measures from the government regarding the issue. The government has been providing subsidies in rice cultivation which is also required for animal feed so that our farmers can get the feed at a subsidized rate.

The finance minister also mentioned about incentives and rehabilitation aid for farmers, which he didn't elaborate further. He shared about the success in fish and livestock production. The minister said the government will continue an allocation of Tk 5,000 crore to help low-income group people, affected by natural disasters.

Dear readers, despite the high population, decreasing arable land and frequent natural disasters, Bangladesh has made significant progress in achieving self-sufficiency in producing cereal crops and reducing poverty. Almost half of the population are now employed in the farming sector. I hope the state policy will put their eyes on the sector's anomalies, especially when we are facing so many challenges. I suggest if we could safeguard the marginal farmers, bring in modern technologies, execute the Delta Plan, and strengthen inter-ministerial coordination, the country will go forward and the farming sector will flourish more.

## Country gets its first female

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Promotion Bureau under the commerce ministry and director general of the Institute of Public Finance under the finance ministry. She also worked for various ministries, including agriculture, women and children affairs and defence.

Outside the government, Fatima also worked for Asian Development Bank, European Union, and the United Nations' International Jute Organisation. She completed master's in business administration from the Dhaka University's Institute of Business

Administration and also in development economics from Australian National University.

Fatima completed an executive programme on Leading Successful Programmes from John F Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

## Rebels sink AL

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In another AL stronghold, Faridpur, party-nominated candidate Habibul Bashar for Kamaldia union of Madhukhali upazila lost to independent candidate Walid Hasan Mamun.

Besides, in Purba Enayetnagar UP of Kalkini upazila in Madaripur — another traditional stronghold — AL candidate Mahbub Alam lost to party dissident Neyamul Akan.

According to the Election Commission, 131 union parishads and five municipalities went to polls on Wednesday.

EC data shows that ruling AL suffered a huge blow as independent candidates won 48 percent of chairman posts.

Independents won chairman posts in 61 UPs and AL nominees in 68, while Islami Andolan won in one UP. The result of one UP was suspended.

The ruling party, which

has been in power for about 14 years, also suffered a debacle in the seventh phase of union parishad polls held in February this year. In the elections held on February 17, independents won 64 percent of the chairman posts while the AL won only 30 percent, according to EC data.

It was the lowest winning percentage for AL in the seven phases of staggered union parishad elections that began in June 2021.

The EC announced unofficial results of 4,027 UPs in seven phases. The AL chairman nominees won in 2,172 UPs and independents in 1,778. AL insiders said many of the winning independents were disgruntled AL leaders who ran as independents after failing to get the party nomination.

AL sources estimated that at least 900 of the winning independents were AL rebel candidates.

According to the EC, elections to the chairman posts of 369 were not required as candidates were elected unopposed and of them, 368 were AL ticket holders. The number was 2017 in the 2016 UP polls.

Awami League, since 2014, has failed to restrain party dissidents from contesting election against party sponsored candidates.

Repeated show-cause notices, warnings of punitive actions and even expulsions failed to deter AL leaders from participating in the local government polls without the party ticket.

Worried over the practice, AL high ups amended the party's constitution in 2016, introducing provisions to expel such individuals without prior notice and making the local committee recommend names of potential nominees. But it seems all the measures were to no avail.

## Western arms 'useless' Only 1.63pc

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counteroffensive in the south.

Sergiy Gaiday — the governor of the Lugansk region, which includes the city — said around 10,000 civilians remain trapped in the city, out of a pre-war population of some 100,000.

But Ukrainian officials said battles on both main fronts depended on receiving more aid from the

West, especially artillery to counter Russia's big advantage in firepower.

President Volodymyr Zelensky thanked the visiting Europeans in a social media post for their "solidarity with our country and people". But hours earlier he had told his countrymen in a nightly video address: "Every day, I struggle for Ukraine to get the weapons and equipment it needs."

According to UK-based QS World University Rankings-2022, DU ranked between 800 and 1,000 in the list of the best universities in the world.

One of the main parameters in such rankings is the number of researches a university conducts.

DU has 84 departments and 12 institutes where around 43,000 students are studying and 2,200 educators are teaching.