

# ‘SHUKLOPOKKHO’

## Vicky Zahed looks to tell chilling suspense story

I wanted to give the audiences a serial killer that they would remember for years to come,” said Vicky. “This production, which showcases a love triangle, people going missing and the story that ties the two together.

ASHLEY SHOPTORSHI SAMADDAR

After “Redrum”, Vicky Zahed is set to return to OTT with his upcoming psychological-thriller “Shuklopokkho”. Garnering much appreciation for his use of plot-twists, the director has decided to present a fresh chemistry between Khairul Basar, Ziaul Roshan, and Sunerah Binte Kamal in the upcoming Chorki project.

“I wanted to give the audiences a serial killer that they would remember for years to come,” said Vicky. “This production, which showcases a love triangle, people going missing and the story that ties the two together.”

Sharif Shiraj and Faruque Ahmed, among others.

After “Karnish”, which was released this Eid, this is the second time Roshan and Vicky will be working together.

“I found my character very intriguing when I was reading the script,” shared Roshan. “The facial expressions of my character, Humayun, is quite mysterious. The audience will at points believe that they understand Humayun’s next move, however, he will do something completely unexpected in those moments.”

“Shoklopokkho”, where Roshan appears as Humayun, will mark his web debut.

“Normally, in commercial films, we have a mass audience, each of whom come from different backgrounds and have varying preferences. However, they all sit together to watch the same film under the same roof. Now, in terms of streaming platforms, individuals pay to watch content that they can enjoy in the company of their families or by themselves. ‘Shuklopokkho’ gave me the opportunity to connect to a whole new range of viewers and I am grateful for this opportunity,” added Roshan.

Khairul Basar, who previously worked with the director on his much-appreciated productions “Charer Master”, “Punorjonmo 2” and “Ghun”, is also excited for “Shuklopokkho”. The “Networker Baire” actor will be seen in the role

of Manju in the production.

“Elements of envy, love, greed, and bloodshed are beautifully tied together in this production,” said Basar.

“Nevertheless, I want the audience to wait for the twist, and I sincerely hope they are not disappointed.”

“Shuklopokkho” will be released on Chorki on August 11.



PHOTO: TAKEN FROM FACEBOOK



## Saman Ali Sarkar watches “Poran” with family

Saman Ali Sarkar, the elderly gentleman who was allegedly not allowed to buy tickets to “Poran” because he wore a lungi, watched the film with his entire family yesterday. Possible only through the immense power of the internet, the incident was propelled through the viral video posted in cinema groups yesterday. Watching the video, the crew of “Poran” had wanted to see the film with him, which they did. “He told me that I was his second daughter,” said Bidya Sinha Mim to The Daily Star. “I was emotional, it was a great day for me.”

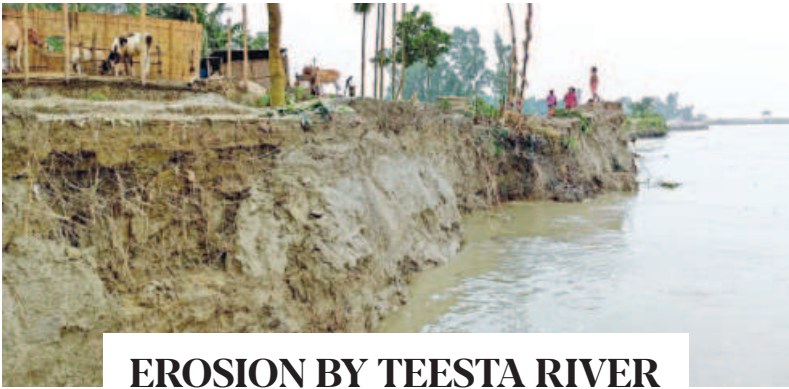
## ‘Joker’ sequel’s release date revealed

A motion picture sequel to the Oscar-winning psychological thriller “Joker,” based on one of the world’s best known comic book villains, is set for release in theaters on Oct. 4, 2024, a spokesperson for film distributor Warner Bros said on Wednesday.

“Joker: Folie à Deux,” will star Joaquin Phoenix reprising his role as the title character, which earned him the Academy Award as best actor in the original 2019 film depicting an origin story for the arch enemy of DC Comics’ superhero Batman, according to the studio spokesperson.



# COUNTRYWIDE



EROSION BY TEESTA RIVER

## Over 200 houses, croplands devoured in Kurigram

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

Erosion by the Teesta river has taken a serious turn and continues devouring fresh areas in Kurigram’s Chilmari upazila.

Locals said river erosion has devoured over 200 homesteads and vast tract of arable land at Patrakhata village under Ramna union in the last six to seven weeks.

About 400 bighas of croplands has already been devoured by the river, while three educational institutions, over 100 homesteads and several hundred bighas of arable land are under threat of being eroded, said the affected villagers.

Ramna Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Golam Ashek Aka said the swelling Teesta is devouring houses and arable land at Patrakhata village every day.

If the Water Development Board (WDB) had taken necessary measures at the right time, then maybe, the fresh erosion could have been prevented, the UP chairman said.

But WDB started dumping sandbags at the vulnerable points only a few days ago to check the erosion, he said, adding that, the erosion-hit people have taken shelters on government khas lands, different roads and other people’s land.

Moreover, many erosion affected villagers left the village and moved to other places as they could not save their belongings, said the chairman.

If the erosion is not checked permanently, Patrakhata village will disappear from the map within a short time, Superintendent of Patrakhata Reazul Jannah Dakhil Madrasa Abdul Aziz said.

He also urged the authorities concerned to take prompt steps to check the erosion permanently.

One of the affected villagers Naya Mia said he along with his family members have taken shelter beside a village road after his homestead on eight decimals of land eroded by the river recently.

“The mighty river also ate my three bighas arable land only a month ago,” Naya said, adding that as he is a poor man he cannot afford to buy any land and build a new house.

Another erosion victim Bahar Uddin said his house on 10 decimals, a fruit garden and two bighas of arable land had gone into the river last Friday.

“We took shelter on other people’s land and now I am finding it hard to run my family,” he said.

Kurigram WDB Executive Engineer Abdullah Al Mamun said 70,000 geo bags have been allocated to prevent the river erosion at Patrakhata village.

## Dhaka, Beijing

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China relationship is “deep and wide”, and the two countries will discuss areas of future cooperation.

He added that the Chinese foreign minister is scheduled to arrive in the capital at 11:00am tomorrow. He will meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Sunday morning.

Wang Yi will also have a bilateral meeting with his Bangladeshi counterpart AK Abdul Momen the same day to discuss bilateral, regional and global issues.

Awami League General Secretary Obaidul Quader, also the road transport and bridges minister, will host a dinner in his honour tomorrow evening, Shahriar said.

Momen is expected to return home tomorrow night after attending the Asean Regional Forum meeting on August 5-6 in Cambodia.

In response to a query, Shahriar said Bangladesh would seek a stronger role from the Chinese government in ensuring early repatriation of the Rohingyas.

Bangladesh is sheltering over 1.1 million Rohingyas and there is a tripartite mechanism – Bangladesh, Myanmar and China – to discuss and resolve the crisis.

Responding to a question from a reporter on Wednesday, Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen said taking a new loan from China would not be a part of their agenda during talks with the Chinese foreign minister.

## Great Barrier

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southern portion of the reef, which a year ago had appeared to be on the mend, but was now in decline again.

“This shows how vulnerable the reef is to the continued acute and severe disturbances that are occurring more often, and are longer-lasting,” he said.

Coral coverage has increased by 36 percent across sites monitored in the northern part of the reef, up from 27 percent in 2021.

But the picture was less encouraging as the scientists moved south, with a smaller increase in cover in the reef’s central belt and a marked decrease in coral cover in the south.

The spread of coral-killing crown-of-thorns starfish has also taken a toll.

## Ex-minister’s APS sued

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case filed against expelled Faridpur AL leader Sajjad Hossain Barkat and his brother Intiaz Hasan Rubel. The case was filed with Kafirul Police Station in the capital on June 26, 2020, on charges of accumulating wealth by manipulating tenders of various government departments in Faridpur, drug smuggling, grabbing land and extortion.

The CID submitted the charge sheet against 10 people on March 3 last year. Barkat, Rubel and Mosharrar’s brother Khandaker Mohtesam Hossain Babar, former Faridpur AL vice-president, are among the accused.

Fuad, now behind bars, was arrested on October 13 last year.

SI Bichitra mentioned in the case statement that Faridpur CID came to

know that Fuad, under the leadership of Barkat and Rubel, formed a “helmet gang” to establish supremacy in the district town, controlled and manipulated government tenders, and grabbed land.

Being the APS of an influential minister, Fuad used to take bribes from contractors to get the minister’s recommendations and also for recruitment in different government offices. He accumulated huge immovable wealth and properties in his and his family members’ and relatives names, added the case statement.

The CID probe found that Fuad owns a flat, a tin-shed market, three shops, 14 bighas of arable land and 65 decimals of land in Faridpur town.

He and his first wife also have over Tk 46.58 lakh in savings bonds and in bank accounts.

## ‘Out-of-box’ solution

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more than \$1 billion was injected, according to Talukder.

“If that money goes back to the market, the liquidity crisis will be solved,” he said.

Talukder, however, did not elaborate on how the money would go back to the market at a time when the central bank has brought down its private sector credit growth target for this fiscal year from fiscal 2021-22’s.

Besides, inflation remains well above the government’s target of 5.6 percent for this fiscal year. In July, inflation stood at 7.48 percent.

“We are now working on tackling inflation. Our core challenge is to ease the price pressure derived from the global market. Once that is controlled, the other associated sectors of the economy will become good automatically.”

He is expecting a “positive outcome” in two-three months thanks to a set of initiatives taken by both the government and the BB.

“The economy is under pressure and that pressure has come from import-induced inflation – we have nothing to do here as we have to import many items, including petroleum, gas, wheat and so on.”

At present, importers have to count Tk 111 for a dollar while settling their import bills whereas the banks are buying dollars from the central bank at Tk 94.70.

When prodded on the large gap, he

said: “The outflow of the dollar is now higher than the inflow. Hopefully, there will not be much of a gap in 2-3 months. This will help us let the exchange rate fully float.”

BB has already taken several initiatives to bring down imports, he said, adding that the economy is now reaping the benefits from the decision.

Both the opening and settling of letters of credit decreased substantially in July.

In July, LCs worth about \$6 billion were opened, down from \$8 billion the previous month.

Talukder also acknowledged another glaring problem in Bangladesh’s financial sector: the lack of depositors’ confidence in the non-bank financial institutions.

The central bank will turn to invigorate the NBF sector once it has finished working on the 10 banks it has identified with weak financial conditions.

Asked whether he would take any measures to prevent a single party from having ownership stakes in multiple banks and NBFIs, he said: “This is not my job to see who are the owners of banks. My responsibility is to bring all banks under compliance.”

Md Habibur Rahman, the chief economist of BB, presented a paper at the event about the central bank’s recent measures to contain inflation and stabilise the exchange rate fluctuation.

## Tigers face Zim

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series sweep of the West Indies.

Unlike their record in T20Is and Tests, Bangladesh boast a staggering record in their most preferred format. They have won 10 of their last 12 ODIs and the Tigers will certainly want to keep up the winning momentum.

Meanwhile, a new-look Zimbabwe, under the leadership of Regis Chakabva, will be hoping to bounce back in the format after being whitewashed in their last three-match ODI series against Afghanistan at home.

## Bangladesh

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made guidelines to regulate how nongovernmental entities can share data in different contexts.

It also does not have bodies responsible for supporting personal and public sector data sharing among governmental entities – something that countries ranking higher had, stated the report titled Global Data Governance Mapping Project.

Bangladesh was marked further down for not being a part of any trade agreement governing the free flow of data across borders.

This is the situation at a time when the centre noted an increase in the number of nations adhering to a trade agreement with the free flow of data.

“High-income nations do more to govern data and, in particular, more on the international and responsible attributes.

“In contrast, lower- and middle-income countries tend to focus their data governance efforts on structural or regulatory actions rather than develop strategies or put forward human rights/ethical guidelines,” the report read.

Countries who scored less than Bangladesh are Tunisia, Bolivia, Egypt, Algeria, Botswana, Cuba, Iran and Tanzania.

Bangladesh’s personal data protection law is currently in a draft stage.

## It all depends on

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Stating that the situation in Bangladesh will never be like that of Sri Lanka, he said the government is not hiding anything.

Talking about the country’s export situation, he said that as per directive of the prime minister, the government is paying attention to export diversification for increasing earnings.