

I am glad to be back home

SHAKIB KHAN

ZAHID AKBAR

Shakib Khan, one of Dhallywood's biggest superstars, returned to Bangladesh on Wednesday after spending nearly nine months in the US. Upon his return, he was greeted by droves of his fans, who presented him with flowers. The actor also got the opportunity to speak with journalists who were waiting at the VIP gate of the airport.

Some of the police officers on duty, during Shakib's arrival, said that they had never seen such a grand reception for an actor before.

After spending quite some time with his fans, Shakib finally reached his home in Gulshan around 3 pm. There, he got to sit down and speak with The Daily Star.

How did it feel to set foot on country's soil after such a long time?

When I was only seven hours away



PHOTO: STAR

from landing in Bangladesh, each hour started to feel like an entire day. I kept asking 'are we there yet?' and 'have we reached Bangladesh?' I really cannot put my feelings into words, all I can say is that I am incredibly happy to be back home. The love and appreciation that I have seen from the people of our country and the fans have impressed me.

Fans from all over the country rushed to the airport to greet you upon your return. Just how much did you enjoy this reception?

I was overwhelmed to see this kind of turnout from fans. Just as they are excited to see me, I am excited to see them as well. They are like my second family, and where I am today is thanks to them. And I have missed my fans in the same way they have missed me too.

What was the first thing you did after entering your house?

Upon entering my house, I first greeted my parents and hugged them. I can't put into words the feeling of meeting my parents after so long. Then, I talked to the journalists present. When I was in the US, I would normally be sleeping around this time. So, I am feeling slightly drowsy. However, everything will be fine. I'll be resting for the next couple of days and then I will get back to work and I am glad to be back home.

When will we see you in a new project?

I have been having talks about some prospective projects, both in Bangladesh and abroad. Recently, I have been paying more attention to films outside the country. You'll know in the next couple of days what I will be working on. Good news will be coming from outside of the country.

A few days ago, we heard rumours about your marriage. When will you be getting married?

I will get married with the blessings of my family. When I get married, I will not keep it a secret. I will let everyone know and have grand celebrations to mark the occasion.



PHOTO: SHAHREAR KABIR HEWEL



'Din: The Day' director to sue Ananta Jalil

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Iranian filmmaker Morteza Atashzanzam will file a complaint against Ananta Jalil for breaching contract for "Din: The Day".

The director announced the news on his Instagram post.

"Ananta Jalil has breached the contract by distorting my creation. The name of the movie was supposed to be 'Day' but he didn't use it. I was the main and major producer but he continued the production in his own way, by his own content and form and shapes," the post read.

"I will be suing Ananta Jalil and register a complaint against him to the court in Tehran, Iran and follow up by an international lawyer to the court in Bangladesh," it read.

'Orphan: First Kill' dropping on Star Cineplex today



"Orphan: First Kill", the prequel to the popular American psychological horror film "Orphan", directed by William Brent Bell will be released at all four branches of Star Cineplex on Friday.

The film stars Isabelle Fuhrman, Julia Stiles and Rossif Sutherland in the lead roles.

The prequel mainly revolves around the violent past of Esther. After escaping from a psychiatric facility in Estonia, Esther travels to America by impersonating the missing daughter of a wealthy family.

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Consider independent means

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Rights Commission to be effective, instead of keeping it as a mere bureaucratic organisation.

"The serious allegations demand full investigation. People have the right to know the truth even if it is a matter of unease for the government," he said.

During her visit, Bachelet recognised the country's remarkable socio-economic progress, and advancements in gender equality and education.

The Chilean official however stressed on bolstering the independence of institutions like the National Human Rights Commission, Election Commission, and the judiciary, and training of law enforcers to improve governance and inclusivity.

On the Rohingya issue, Bachelet said conditions in Myanmar are not yet right for their repatriation. Mizanur said that could give a wrong signal to the Myanmar junta and she should have instead made a strong call for Myanmar to guarantee Rohingya rights and take them back.

He said the UN human rights chief's call for widening civil society space and media freedom was absolutely correct as the Digital Security Act has caused an atmosphere of self-censorship.

Eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said it seemed that the government does not believe that the citizens of the country have the ability to see and learn of unlawful things, and thinks that the international community is also blind and devoid of any understanding of what is happening

in the world. He said Bachelet was president of Chile, where some of the most horrendous human rights violations were committed and many of the perpetrators were brought to justice. "We hope our government will pay heed to Bachelet's suggestions."

He said the perpetrators of human rights abuses may think they are above the law, but every country, sooner or later, must bring such perpetrators to book.

Perpetrators of heinous crimes in many South American countries in the last quarter of the last century are being tried, he said, urging the government to initiate legal processes as recommended by Bachelet.

"If the government fails to do so, I am sure subsequent governments in 10, 20 or 30 years will certainly do it."

Mystery shrouds

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we found the car on a road in Hyderabad Bridge area of Tongi," he said.

"We found my father in the driving seat and his wife in the passenger seat beside him. We were not sure whether they were dead or alive," said Miraj.

"We took them to a local hospital in Tongi's Boardbazar area. Later, we moved them to another hospital in Dhaka's Uttara where doctors declared them dead," he added.

No injury mark was found on their bodies, said Nondolal Chowdhury, officer-in-charge (OC) of Gacha Police Station under Gazipur Metropolitan Police.

He said they could not say how the couple died. Police are investing, he added.

However, Mamun's elder brother Ripon alleged that there were black marks in the necks of the victims.

Claiming it to be murder, Ripon said the killers did not take gold ornaments or cash which were on them.

Mamun was the head teacher of Shaheed Smriti High School and Jolly was an assistant teacher at Amzad Ali High School in Gazipur.

The schools are within 500 metres of each other.

Some raising prices

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comments while exchanging greetings virtually with the Hindu community members at the Dhakeshwari Mandir in the capital and JM Sen Hall in Chattogram on the occasion of Jannashanti. She joined the event from the Gono Bhaban, reports UNB.

Hasina described the steps taken by her government to ensure food security for low-income people and control market manipulation.

"The government is making arrangements for monitoring the prices and taking steps."

She mentioned that the government is providing rice to 50 lakh families for Tk 15 a kg and it will provide special family cards to one crore people, with which they will be able to buy essentials like rice, lentils, edible oil, and sugar at fair prices.

"We are trying to keep the prices within the purchasing capacity of the people so that they do not suffer," the PM said.

Referring to food scarcity around the world and possible famine, Hasina urged the country's people to utilise every inch of land for production.

Talking about religion, the premier requested the Hindus never to consider themselves as a minority.

"We want people from all religions

to live in this country with equal rights. You are the people of this country, you have equal rights here, you have the same rights as mine."

She blasted a section of the Hindus who try to imply that they are in a very bad condition in Bangladesh.

"I want to say one thing with great regret that whenever an incident occurs here, it is propagated at home and abroad massively as if the Hindus don't have any rights in this country," the PM said.

Hasina said whenever an incident happens, her government takes immediate actions against the perpetrators. "But the actions of the government do not get proper attention."

In this connection, she said that many Muslims were killed in police firing while taking actions to protect temples. "This kind of incidents also took place."

The PM said the number of Puja Mandaps in Dhaka is higher than that in West Bengal or Kolkata, and Durga Puja is celebrated all over Bangladesh massively.

"It is not right to say something that hurts anyone's religious sentiment," she said, mentioning that the government and Awami League do not believe in undermining any religion.

BB asks MDs

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"We have asked them to identify the officials responsible for this. On top of that, the banks have to state the motive behind gaining of the excessive profits," he said.

In the last couple of months, a good number of banks made profits through unethical means as they purchased dollars at a lower rate from exporters and sold those at a much higher rate to importers, another BB official said.

Until August 14, importers had to purchase each dollar for up to Tk 120 while the exporters sold each dollar for as low as Tk 93. Thanks to the large gap between the buying and selling prices, the banks between January and June made up to seven times the profit they made during the same period last year, according to the data from the balance sheet of 11 banks.

On Wednesday, banks offered a greenback for Tk 105 to Tk 106 to importers.

Banks in the country have to sell and buy dollars based on the inter-bank exchange rate set by the central bank. The USD traded at Tk 95 on the platform on Wednesday.

As per the banking norms, lenders are allowed to offer Tk 1 less from the interbank rate while buying dollars from exporters. They can sell greenbacks, adding Tk 1 to the inter-bank rate. Banks have been following this norm for years until April, when instability in the forex market deepened.

BB on August 14 asked banks to follow a rational difference, not more than Tk 1, between the buying and selling rates.

The country's foreign exchange market has been facing challenges since the end of the last year because of the pandemic and the war between Russia and Ukraine.

Higher imports, lower-than-expected export receipts and falling remittance have sent the reserves below \$40 billion.

Cannibal' solar

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in a scale running from G1 to G5, with the latter including widespread power system problems and communication shutdowns.

BNP seeks probe under UN

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around 600 political leaders and activists, civil society members and labour leaders were made victims of enforced disappearance in the country.

Asked about some Awami League leaders' comments that most of the BNP's statements on enforced disappearance were political, Fakhrul said, "This is natural that they will not admit it."

Referring to AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader's statement that the UN has no jurisdiction in any internal issue of Bangladesh, the BNP leader said, "It seems that such incidents took place in the country... Netra News report has proved that the entire state is involved in this crime."

Fakhrul said that there is no atmosphere for holding talks in the country and it would not happen

until BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is "released" and cases filed against her are withdrawn.

He also said a dialogue with the ruling AL will not be possible until the incumbent government steps down and dissolves parliament.

UN Human Rights Commissioner Bachelet on Wednesday expressed concern over the allegations of enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings and torture in Bangladesh.

Speaking at a press conference at a city hotel, she recommended an impartial, independent and transparent investigation into these allegations, expressing her office's readiness to provide advice on how such a mechanism could be designed in line with international standards.

Bachelet left Dhaka early yesterday wrapping up her four-day visit to Bangladesh.

3 BCL men arrested

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victim's mother who runs a beauty parlour in Rajshahi University Railway Station area.

Later, they threatened her mother that they would abduct Borsa if they were not given ransom money.

As her father protested, they attacked him with hammers and iron sticks on August 12.

Soon after the incident, Borsha went to nearby Chandrima Police Station. Policemen there, however, denied recording any complaint saying the area was not under the purview of their legal jurisdiction. They also asked the college girl to contact Motihar Police Station.

But the Motihar Police Station also refused to record the complaint citing the same reason. They then asked her to contact General Railway Police Station.

The victim then went to the police station, but in vain.

On Wednesday, she organised a press conference at the Rajshahi Union of Journalists office and demanded justice.

On information, Rab launched an operation and arrested the trio, said Superintendent of Police Nazli Selina Ferdousi of Rab-5.

The arrestees will be handed over to General Railway Police Station, she added.

Latifur Alam, deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, said they were trying to arrest the rest of the accused.

Ruhul Amin Sarker Prince, earlier, told journalists that there was a "scuffle" between BCL men and the college girl's father.

He, however, denied the allegations of harassing the college girl and using hammers and iron sticks during the "scuffle".

"The girl's family used to shelter some Chhatra Shibir men. Some of us beat him up while alerting him about it," he said.

He went into hiding after the case was filed.

Kabul mosque blast

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Haqqani was known for angry speeches against IS, which later claimed the attack.

The IS jihadist group has primarily targeted minority communities such as Shias, Sufis and Sikhs.

The Taliban claim they have defeated IS, but experts say the group remains a key security challenge for the hardline Islamists.

The Taliban on Monday marked the first anniversary of their return to power following a turbulent year that saw women's rights crushed and a humanitarian crisis worsen.