

We did not make 'Shonibar Bikel' just to air it abroad

ZAHID HASAN

Shonibar Bikel', being a film shot in one take, has a special place in the actor's heart. "You can't even imagine the tension that went behind making this film. One wrong move, and the entire effort is wasted – it was almost like taking a penalty kick at an important football match.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Zahid Hasan, one of the lead actors of the film Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Saturday Afternoon" (Shonibar Bikel), has talked about the film's release and censor certificate debate on a press conference held at the Dhaka Reporters Unity on Thursday, demanding the right to the freedom of expression in Bangladeshi cinema and media content.

An ongoing protest against the Film Censor Board is underway, for not giving Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Saturday Afternoon" a clearance certificate. "I feel hurt as an artiste,



Zahid Hasan in 'Shonibar Bikel'

that my film is not getting censor board clearance still now. The film was screened in Russia. They were very impressed with the film and gave us compliments. Some people cried in the hall as well. Despite that, I cannot decipher what the problem is for a Bangladesh release," said the actor.

The actor further added that this is a time of revival for the film industry. "People are slowly starting to return to halls, and I have an incident to share about it," he said. "My daughter recently expressed interest in watching 'Poran'. She told me to manage tickets for it – isn't that a great gesture? Is that not an amazing thing for our

industry?"

"Shonibar Bikel", being a film shot in one take, has a special place in the actor's heart. "You can't even imagine the tension that went behind making this film. One wrong move, and the entire effort is wasted – it was almost like taking a penalty kick at an important football match."

"We work for the people of the country. We want to show our film to our people. We didn't make this film just to air it abroad. Can't we have one chance to show the film in Bangladesh?" he added.

"Let 'Shonibar Bikel' be released as soon as possible. Apart from this, the film 'Hawa' is also facing troubles under wildlife conservation laws. We have to find out who is behind all this, and why they are targeting the films that are helping the revival of the film industry," Zahid Hasan concluded.



Actor Abdullah Saki no more

Veteran actor Abdullah Saki passed away on Saturday (August 27) at 1 am, after suffering from age related complications.

Many celebrities, including Omar Sani, Symon Sadik and Zayed Khan, has posted about the late actor on their Facebook account.

Abdullah Saki debuted on the silver screen with Delwar Jahan Jhantu's film in the late 80's. He was popular for his role as 'Khan Baba' in the movie "Prem Geet".

Vijay Deverakonda meets theatre owner who called him 'arrogant'

"Liger" star Vijay Deverakonda has met a theatre owner who called him out for being "arrogant" for his recent comment.

The actor said that "we will see who is able to stop me" amidst the boycott trend for "Liger". Gaiety Galaxy owner, Manoj Desai, criticised the actor for being "arrogant" about his film.

The actor met the owner and expressed his regrets regarding the comment, and apologised to him. "Liger" released in August 25 was only able to generate Rs 10.25 crore only.



COUNTRYWIDE

BRIDGE ON SUBORNAKHALI RIVER

Villagers' wait gets longer

OUR CORRESPONDENT,
Mymensingh

Despite assurances by public representatives for the last 50 years a permanent bridge over Subornakhali river in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila has not been built yet.

As a result, thousands of residents of at least 25 villages of the upazila and Sirajganj's Kazipur upazila have been suffering immensely.

In absence of a permanent bridge over the river people of several villages have to cross the river by boats, risking their lives, locals said, adding that despite repeated pleas, the authorities concerned are yet to take any initiative in this regard.

Abu Bakar Siddique of Char Pogoldigha village said they have been getting promises about building a concrete bridge over the river during every local and national elections, but nothing has been done so far.

The river flows through

Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila and Sirajganj's Kazipur upazila, villagers said, adding that thousands of people of different villages under the two upazilas use Gamartola Ferry Ghat to cross the river on small boats every day.

Ashrafal Alam of Monsur Nagar area said nearly 50,000 people of some 25 villages on either side cross the river daily as Kazipur upazila headquarter is about 100 kilometres by road via Tangail and Sirajganj, while it is only 25 kilometres on waterways.

Due to lack of a concrete bridge over the river for decades, people's sufferings get worsened during the monsoon, Abul Kalam Azad of Pogoldigha village said.

A permanent bridge can connect two snapped unions of Kazipur with Jamalpur and other districts including the capital, he added.

It is very difficult for many families, living at different villages along the river, to provide proper education to their kids

due to the poor communication system, Mamunur Rashid of the area said.

Farmer Suruzzaman of Monsur Nagar in Kazipur said due to lack of a permanent bridge over the river, local farmers are compelled to sell their produce at a cheaper price, while in many cases they have to count losses for their agricultural products.

If a bridge connects the two unions of Kazipur with Sarishabari, it will bring more developments, said Shams Uddin, former chairman of Pogoldigha Union Parishad (UP).

Students are the worst suffers as they have to attend their classes by crossing the river on boats during the rainy season or walk-through sandy lands in the dry season, said Shipon Miah of Guiyakhara village in Kazipur. Sarishabari Upazila Engineer of Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Jahidur Rahman said he will visit the area and submit a report for necessary action.



Local residents use country boats for crossing Subornakhali river in Jamalpur's Sarishabari upazila, in absence of a permanent bridge for years.

PHOTO: STAR

Food official suspended

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Asked whether any probe body has been formed, Gaibandha district Food Controller Antara Mallik said an embezzlement case was lodged against Ziaur, and now police would investigate it.

He added that they already suspended Ziaur.

Meanwhile, after Ziaur was withdrawn over graft allegations, he filed a "fraud" case against four rice mill owners – Moshir Rahman Mollah, Mokhsedur Rahman, Mofizul Haque and Zahir Uddin Bhola.

Inspector (investigation) Rajab Ali of Saghata Police Station told The

Daily Star that Ziaur lodged the case against the four millers on August 19.

In the case statement, he alleged that the millers did not supply rice to his depot as per the contract. They supplied 49.50 tonnes of rice. Of the amount, 40 tonnes were returned back as the rice quality was not up to the mark.

The millers did not supply the 40 tonnes, the statement mentioned.

Talking to this correspondent, miller Mokhsedur said as per the contract signed with the food office, the four millers supplied 75 80 tonnes of rice in June and got their payments through bank. "We have all

documents."

He alleged that Ziaur lodged the case after he was withdrawn over corruption allegations. He filed the case to harass them.

Inspector Rajab said they could not accept the embezzlement case against the government official.

He added that they recorded a general diary and forwarded it to the Anti-Corruption Commission through the superintendent of Gaibandha police. The ACC will take care of the case.

This correspondent could not contact Ziaur for his comments as his mobile phone was found switched off.

Trial finally begins after two decades

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College and Hospital where on-duty doctors informed me that my brother was dead.

"They asked me to return to the hospital at 11:00am to receive the body, which was handed over to me after an inquest and post-mortem report."

Based on the details from Selim, Towhidul filed a case with Gulshan Police Station against nine people.

"Before I filed the case, Selim told me that after the incident, the on-duty policemen and locals caught Adnan

Siddiqui red-handed from the spot."

During yesterday's hearing, three accused – Ashish Rai Choudhury, Tariq Sayeed Mamun and Emon, now behind bars, were produced before the tribunal.

Of the other accused, Adnan and Faruque Abbasi were earlier exempted from personal appearance at the tribunal, while businessman Aziz Mohammad Bhai and owner of Trumps Club Afakul Islam alias Bunty Islam, Selim Khan and Harun Or-Rashid alias Leather Liton are now absconding.

The judge yesterday fixed August

30 for the next hearing.

After Sohel's murder, the Detective Branch of Police conducted an investigation and submitted a charge sheet to the court on August 2, 1999.

On October 30, 2001, Dhaka's Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed the charges against the nine.

Two years later, the case was transferred to the Speedy Trial Tribunal-2 for its quick disposal.

Following a petition of an accused, the High Court in 2003 stayed the trial proceedings.

Two mortar shells

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He said the Bangladesh Border Guard forces are, however, on high alert as precaution.

Jahangir Aziz, chairman of Ghumdhum union, said heavy gunfire was being heard from the other side of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border for the past two weeks, adding that the landing of the mortar shells made everyone in the area panic.

BGB officials in Cox's Bazar could not be reached for comments on the matter. Asked, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told reporters at the foreign ministry that the government would inquire into the matter if the mortar shells landed there accidentally or on purpose.

Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, said, "We usually protest such incidents. We received similar reports a few days ago. We will again strongly protest it with them [Myanmar]."

Tea workers return to work

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By yesterday morning, workers started collecting tea leaves in Khaichhara, Bhurbhuria, and Zerim tea gardens in Moulvibazar's Sreemangal.

"Most of the tea estates remain closed on Sunday. So, all the workers are expected to join work by tomorrow [today]," said Nipen Paul, acting general secretary of the Bangladesh Tea Workers Union.

Around 125,000 workers in the country's 241 tea estates have been protesting since August 9 demanding their daily wage be raised to Tk 300 from Tk 120.

They abstained from work from August 9-12 for two hours a day before going on a full-scale strike from August 13.

On August 21, some workers' leaders agreed to end the strike, accepting an offer to raise the pay to Tk 145. But most of the workers refused and continued abstaining from work.

In the last two weeks, workers held demonstrations, formed human chains, blocked roads, and rail tracks to press home their demands.

Finally, on Saturday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a meeting with a delegation of tea estate owners at the Gono Bhaban directed them to raise the daily wage of tea workers to Tk 170 from Tk 120.

She also asked the workers to withdraw their work abstention and resume work Sunday.