



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF CHORKI

## 'I am a good man who plays bad characters'

MISHA SAWDAGAR

**The shrewd and conniving Robiul Alam thrives on corruption to become a powerful figure in his field. The multitasking engineer has his hands full juggling his family and mistress at the same. One day, his life takes a 360 degree when he gets trapped in an lift. Will he get out alive or will his misdeeds eat him alive.**

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA

Dhallywood's iconic villain, Misha Sawdagar, forays into the world of OTT as the corrupted Robiul Alam in Chorki Limited Series, "Jodi Ami Beche Firi" which airs today.

In a candid conversation, Misha talks about his OTT debut, conflict with Ananta Jalil, and more.

**Why did you decide to debut in OTT with Chorki's "Jodi Ami Beche Firi"?**

"Jodi Ami Beche Firi" has an important social message, which dwells on human psychology. The character has many layers, and will certainly be a memorable one.

**Audiences were able to witness a different Misha Sawdagar in the teaser of "Jodi Ami Beche Firi".**

My transformation to OTT was quite subtle, and I had been receiving offers for over a year and a half for these platforms. I have experimented with my looks and my voice,

to get into the psychological aspect of my character.

In films, the pattern of acting is quite different, we have to make a mark on audience whether its through loud acting or high-pitched voice. However, for the web series, I have toned down the facial expressions to look realistic on screen.

**What kind of challenges did you face while enacting Robiul Alam?**

My biggest challenge was the lift scene, as I suffer from claustrophobia. I didn't tell my director and decided to take the risk, as I wanted to use my fear and anxiety to evoke real expressions.

**That exact scene became viral on social media.**

I am a good person, who is famous for being villain in movies. Generally, audiences were left intrigued by the teaser as they saw me confessing about my crime. I got tons of calls from people asking me "Whether I



## 'Burgir' boy is the first contestant of Bigg Boss 16

Abdu Rozik, Tajik Singer and rapper is the first contestant of Bigg Boss 16.

Known as the world's smallest singer, Rozik is around 19 years old and eligible to enter the Bigg Boss house.

The artiste has a Youtube channel called Avlod Media which has more than 580k subscribers. Interestingly, he will soon be seen in Salman Khan's film "Kisi Ka Bhai Kisi Ki Jaan".

He garnered a lot of fame after a video of him fighting Hasbulla went viral on social media. Netizens like Abdu Rozik and Hasbulla for their small height and great personality.

Bigg Boss 16 is set to premiere on October 1, 2022, on Colors TV.



## Shakib Khan, Apu Biswas celebrate son's birthday together

"Some moments from a happy family", is what Apu Biswas wrote, when she uploaded the birthday celebration pictures of her and Shakib Khan's child, Abraham Khan Joy, after midnight, yesterday.

Both of them had posted about their son, and how much they loved him, on September 27.

"Everything I do, is for him," Apu Biswas wrote, talking about the immense love that she has for Joy.

On the other hand, Shakib Khan wrote, "A father does not need to show off".

The two finally united to celebrate their beloved son's birthday, in the presence of other family members as well.

## NEWS

### 'Rab uses force only if necessary'

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DG for two years and five months, Mamun will become the new inspector general of police (IGP) tomorrow.

Asked if his time as DG became difficult due to the sanctions and whether the number of so-called gunfights and deaths decreased because of the sanctions, he said, "We do not think so.

"When we are attacked, when the narcotics, arms, and human traffickers attack us, we take action according to the existing laws," he said.

Asked whether the decrease in the number of gunfights meant that attacks on Rab had also decreased, the outgoing Rab DG said, "We take action according to the demands of

the situation."

"Whenever a crime takes place, we [Rab] are not present there. Police go first, the magistrate comes, an inquest is done. The body is taken to the morgue. An experienced physician performs the autopsy. A case is filed at the police station.

"The trial is held in open court. Based on the arguments of both parties, the court gives a well thought out decision," said Mamun.

"We do everything with transparency."

Asked whether Rab's war on narcotics has failed as the number of drug abusers have increased, the DG said, "The war we are fighting against is global. This war is not just ours; it is going on all over the world."

Mamun said around 36,000 drug peddlers were arrested and narcotics worth around Tk 2,300 crore seized during his tenure as Rab DG.

About the criticism of police for suppressing activists of opposition party, Mamun said that during the election, law and order forces work entirely under the Election Commission.

"Various complaints are made. If there is any specific complaint against someone, say so. We will take action."

A farewell reception will be given to Mamun at the Rab headquarters today and he will take over as IGP from Benazir Ahmed tomorrow.

Additional IGP M Khurshid Hossain will take charge as director general of Rab the same day.

### KL to take 10k workers under

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September 23, the total cost of each Bangladeshi worker under the G2G mechanism would be Tk 42,920, needed at the Bangladesh end.

A BOESL official said it has already received a demand for 350 workers for employment in Malaysia and will be able to send them in a week.

The new move came as a surprise to many as a syndicate of 25 recruiting agencies approved by the Malaysian human resources ministry earlier this year was already engaged in sending workers to Malaysia.

Bangladesh had wanted Malaysia to engage all recruiting agencies

in hiring but a powerful quarter in Malaysia lobbied for the 25, according to industry insiders.

Each of the workers going to Malaysia through the 25 agencies is supposed to pay Tk 79,000, but they are now forced to pay Tk 3.5 lakh to Tk 4 lakh, they said.

Shameem Ahmed Chowdhury Noman, secretary general of Bangladesh Association of International Recruiting Agency (Baira), said as of September 26, only 2,200 workers went to Malaysia for jobs since August though the Malaysian employers sought 70,000 workers.

"We think there is a lack of

capacity of the recruiting agencies that have the approval of the Malaysian government," Noman told this correspondent.

An official of the expatriates' welfare and overseas employment ministry said many brokers are involved, in Bangladesh and Malaysia, who increase the migration cost.

On December 19 last year, Malaysia and Bangladesh signed a memorandum of understanding for manpower recruitment after a pause of more than three years following allegations of a 10-member syndicate that manipulated recruitment during 2017-18.

### Fair polls not possible amid violence

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they are integrated and holistic."

The promotion of democracy is particularly important right now as a parliamentary election is near.

Bangladesh is committed to democracy, transparency, pluralism, good governance and respectful human rights, he added.

The more Bangladesh is stable and secured, the more it is resilient against the shock of climate change; the more democratic it is, the better it is able to deal with the safe return of Rohingya, he said.

"We are committed to working

together to ensure that the Indo-Pacific region remains free, open, peaceful, prosperous and secured, as you know peace and security are fundamental aspects to prosperity.

"Our military is regularly working with the Bangladeshi military to strengthen the Bangladeshi military's readiness to humanitarian disasters and to reinforce partnership between our military forces."

Earlier this month, Bangladesh along with the US, hosted the 46th annual Indo-Pacific Military Management Seminar, the largest

land force conference in the entire region.

This was an opportunity for senior military officers from all the countries of the region to exchange their views and ideas.

The US has recently observed the fifth anniversary of the Rohingya genocide, a crime against humanity, he said.

As a host of the refugees, Bangladesh has also been facing financial and other burdens. Recently, the US has given \$170.0 million additional support for incredible hospitality to the refugees, he said.

### Physical work set to begin

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Once the deals are struck, the contractors will mobilise their resources, and work is expected to begin in December, he told this newspaper on Monday.

"There were some complexities over the project. However, the good news is work is finally going to start," he added.

The Dhaka Sylhet Highway connects the Sylhet division with the capital and Chattogram, but the existing two-lane highway from Narayanganj's Kanchpur to Sylhet is not enough to deal with the growing number of vehicles, often causing traffic congestion and road crashes.

Besides, it's part of the Asian Highway-1, which connects Meghalaya with West Bengal of India via Tamabil-Sylhet-Dhaka-Narail-Jashore. The government has taken up a separate project to turn the Sylhet-Tamabil Highway into a four-lane highway.

**DELAY OVER LAND ACQUISITION** Expansion of the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway has long been in discussion, and the road authorities even carried out a feasibility study from 2012 to 2015.

But complexities over funding halted the plan. The project was supposed to be implemented with Chinese funding under a G2G initiative, but it ran into a snag as the authorities failed to reach a deal with the selected Chinese company.

Later, the government sought to implement it with own funds. But it then changed its mind and finally decided to take funds from the Asian Development Bank.

Amid complexities over funding, the government in October 2018 took up a Tk 3,885 crore project to acquire land and move the utility services lines as part of preparations for physical work.

The government made the move as land acquisition and shifting of utility services lines take considerable time and involve a complex process.

The Tk 3,885 crore project was supposed to be completed by June last year, but the implementing agency missed the deadline.

The authorities revised the project in February this year, pushing up the cost to Tk 7,982 crore (105

percent more). The deadline was also extended till June 2023. But the project authorities are yet to hand over any land to the Dhaka-Sylhet Highway Project authorities, sources said.

An RHD official, who is in the know about both the projects, said the majority of the land acquisition proposals remains pending with local district administration for over a year.

"We hope we'll get at least 50 percent of the land needed for package-1 before the physical work begins," the official said.

The official further said there is uncertainty about the start of physical work of several other packages due to complexities regarding land acquisition.

Project Director Fazlul Karim, however, said 80 percent of the required land for package-1 will be available before physical work starts.

He also said they will get 270 days to hand over all the required land to the contractors after physical work starts.

Karim, however, admitted there are some problems over land acquisition in some areas, including Habiganj. "However, we are trying our best to resolve those."

Meanwhile, sources at the Road Transport and Highways Division said a foreign company, with a poor track record in implementing a project in Bangladesh, topped the list of bidders in a tender for a contract in one of the packages.

The process remains halted for over a month as the project authorities have sought the division's directive in this regard but are yet to get any, sources said.

This may create further complexities leading to delay in the project's implementation, they added.

### DU VC asks

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university administration's responsibility to ensure their safety," they said in a statement signed by Professor Lutfor Rahman, convener of the body.

The DU authorities have wiped out the tradition of coexistence, it said, demanding that the attackers be identified and brought to book.

### Putin to proclaim

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respected after Moscow held the annexation referendums in regions of Ukraine.

The head of Russia's upper house of parliament has said the chamber could approve the regions' accession as soon as October 4.

The annexation is part of a huge escalation strategy announced by Putin last week, along with the swift call-up of hundreds of thousands of Russian men to fight, and a new warning on nuclear weapons, which he said was "not a bluff".

### Surprise awaits parties reluctant

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political parties.

He also urged the journalists to point out if they detect any mistake in the EC's work.

The EC wants all parties to take part in the national election, he said.

"From our heart, we want all parties to participate in elections. We are repeatedly urging them to join the polls. If they don't listen, tell me, what can the EC do?"

### Shaon died from brickbat wounds

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Speaking to The Daily Star, Masud Rana, member-secretary of Munshiganj Jubo Dal, however, said the SP "lied".

He added that witnesses as well as CCTV footage confirm that Shaon was shot in the head.

"Even the death certificate states that he died from gunshot wounds."

Shaon's brother Sohan also claimed, "A brickbat hitting his head would not have caused such a grievous injury and led to his death. A bullet pierced through his head."

On September 21, at least 50 people, including 30 police personnel, were injured in the clash between law enforcers and BNP men in Mukhtarpur over holding a rally.

Shaon, who was critically injured, died at Dhaka Medical College Hospital the next day.