



PHOTOS: PICKLU NEEL



‘Damal’ builds momentum ahead of kick-off

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

11 men on the field, fighting for their nation – even though it seems like a regular, dramatised version of a normal football match, the case is literal in Raihan Rafi’s upcoming film, “Damal”.

The Shadhin Bangla Football team fought for their country, not figuratively but literally, raising funds to donate for our liberation war.

The film, which stars Siam Ahmed, Bidya Sinha Mim, Sariful Razz, Rashed Mamun Apu, Shahnaz Sumi and Sumit, is not skimping out on promotions ahead of its release on October 28.

The event, titled “Team Damal Meets Team T-Sports” was a signing ceremony between the team, sports channel T Sports and Bashundhara Kings, which took place at Bashundhara City. The cast and crew opened up about their dream project. “I have been working on this film since 2018, and at some points, I felt like I couldn’t do justice to it,” said the director, Raihan Rafi. “As it is a periodic film and we are portraying 1971, we needed a lot of budget and research for that. I felt like giving up on my dream. After all the struggles, now that it’s all set for release, I am whole again.”

Bidya Sinha Mim, who gave arguably one of the best performances of her life in “Poran” with her character Ananya, is excited for the film. “You cursed Ananya, but you will adore Hasna in the film.” The actress further said, “I



did not get to see the liberation war, but I feel grateful to be in a film about it.”

Sariful Razz, who is one short of a hat-trick after starring in hits “Hawa” and “Poran”, says that “Damal” is a film that can be watched with the entire family. “It feels surreal that three of my films are still in circulation.”

“We practiced and practiced, we worked unbelievably hard for this film”, said Siam Ahmed. “I think that through this film; the

younger generation will know a lot about the history of the Shadhin Bangla Football team and their contributions to the country. The film will transfer from generation to generation and we will live through it.” Siam plays the role of Durjoy, the striker, in the film.

With all the cast and crew firmly united, perhaps not less than an actual sports, team, it would take a very strong setback to prevent the goal that “Damal” shoots towards the target.

Angela Lansbury, ‘Murder, She Wrote’ and ‘Beauty and the Beast’ star, dies at 96

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Renowned British actress, Angela Lansbury who enamoured the audiences with her powerful Broadway musicals “Mame” and “Gypsy” has passed away at the age of 96. Lansbury died peacefully at her home in Los Angeles, just five days shy of her 97th birthday.

Angela is popular for playing the crime novelist, Jessica Fletcher in the hit TV series “Murder, She Wrote” and for voicing the character of Mrs Potts in “Beauty and the Beast”.

The noted actress enjoyed a 75-year career including five Tony Awards for her Broadway performances and a lifetime achievement award. She was also honoured with the title of ‘Dame’ by the Queen for her work.



PHOTO: AP

Chanchal and Fazlur Rahman Babu starrer, ‘Dui Diner Duniya’ to release today

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Chorki’s upcoming web-film, “Dui Diner Duniya” is creating waves across social media with Masha Islam’s viral track “Tekka Pakhi”. The web-film marks the first collaboration between Chanchal and Babu on the OTT platform.

The plot revolves around a truck driver, Samad (Chanchal Chowdhury), who has a chance encounter with a mysterious man named Jamshed (Fazlur Rahman Babu) – who claims he is from the future. However, Samad is confused whether he is a *Pir*, *Shadhok* or a fraud.

“Dui Diner Duniya” will be available to stream today, at 8 pm. The web-film also stars Tanven Sweetey, Moushumi Hamid, Rakib Hossain Exon and Tania Brishty, among others.



COUNTRYWIDE

Public road on khas land leased out illegally

Surveyor misused his power and committed the irregularity

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Lalmonirhat

The surveyor at the assistant commissioner’s (land) office in Patgram upazila has allegedly misused his power and leased out 10 decimals of khas land along with an existing road to a couple for personal purpose.

Rubel Rana, surveyor at Patgram upazila assistant commissioner’s (land) office, committed the irregularity in exchange for money from the leaseholder, locals alleged.

People of Naohata, Jamgram, Dangatari, Khelparga and Putimari villages have been using the road on khas land under Baura union in the upazila for long.

The is also a culvert on the road to maintain the water drainage system of the area.

But panic gripped the villagers when they recently came to know

that 10 decimals of khas land along with the existing road at Nabinagar Putimari village has been leased out to one Ibrahim Ali and his wife Alima Begum for 99 years.

Villagers alleged that Rubel Rana and Mohammadul Islam, tahsildar of Baura union, helped the couple to get the lease of the khas land in exchange for bribes.

Both the land officials didn’t even visit the spot before leasing out the government land, they said, adding that now lease holder Ibrahim and his wife Alima are trying to take the road on khas land under their possession.

According to Baura Union Land Office, there are 77 decimals of land under same CS Dag No.

Of the land, 67 decimals are recorded in the name of Jhunu Chandra Das, while the rest 10 decimals are khas land.

Local resident Punno Chandra Roy, 78, said the villagers were shell-shocked when they heard that the khas land with parts of the existing road, which they have been using for nearly half a century, has been leased out for 99 years.

Farmer Jhunu Das said the surveyor has leased out the 10 decimals khas land beside his land, although there is an existing road on the khas land.

When this correspondent asked Ibrahim and his wife about the lease the couple kept mum on the issue.

Contacted, Surveyor Rubel Rana denied the allegation of taking bribe and said the khas land was leased out according to the law. Patgram Upazila Assistant Commissioner (Land) Mahmudul Hasan said he has joined the office recently and he wasn’t aware of the matter.



Part of this road on khas land at Putimari village in Lalmonirhat’s Patgram upazila has been leased out illegally, thanks to the negligence of the authority concerned.

PHOTO: STAR

16 days’ ordeal on route of trafficking

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to traffic Rohingyas and Bangladeshi nationals, with the Coast Guard often stopping boats trying to leave through the Bay of Bengal.

NEW ROUTE

This correspondent talked to a Rohingya youth who was trafficked by the syndicate to Malaysia in June.

Nur Sadek, a 20-year-old resident of Camp 26 in Cox’s Bazar, gave a detailed description of his 16 day strenuous journey to Malaysia via Myanmar and Thailand.

Talking over WhatsApp, he said he got the offer when he met some members of the syndicate in the camp. The members asked him to contact a Bangladeshi named Jahid Hossain, who, according to Sadek, was a resident of Moulvipara of Teknaf’s Hnila union.

Jahid demanded Tk 5 lakh and said the payment could be made after Sadek reached Malaysia.

The Daily Star called the phone number that Sadek said belonged to Jahid, but the phone was found switched off.

Sadek started off from the camp on May 18 and reached Malaysia on June 3.

“I had a small bag as they [the traffickers] asked me to take only two items of clothing and my phone,” he said.

Jahid took him to Teknaf port by a CNG-run auto-rickshaw. Two young Rohingya females had already been waiting there. Jahid asked the three to get on a small boat on the Naf river.

“A team from the BGB appeared there before we left. But Jahid told them something and they left without asking us anything,” he claimed.

After a one-and-a-half hour journey, the boat reached a village named Raimagona in Myanmar’s Maungdaw, where a Rohingya man and a Burmese national received them. They were then taken to a house where he found 13 more Rohingyas waiting. The group of 16 included three children and seven women.

“From the village, I could talk to my relatives in the camp as my Bangladeshi phone number was still working. They [the traffickers] kept us in the house for two days and provided us with good food, including fish curry and rice,” he

said.

Two days later, the traffickers brought a big truck and asked all 19 of them to get on it. They were covered with a tarpaulin throughout the three-and-a-half-hour journey until they reached a village in northern Maungdaw.

“We were kept there for two days, but this time we had only some biscuits and water,” Sadek said.

They were then taken on the truck to a house near a lake in Butthidaung town and stayed in the house for two more days. There they were given some biscuits and salty water.

From there, the traffickers divided them into small groups. There were three Rohingya women, one elderly and two young, in Sadek’s group.

“We then crossed a small river by boat and were introduced to a Burmese Mog man, who is a broker. He took us on a two-hour journey on a car, which looked like a Myanmar police vehicle, to another village,” he said.

“A Rohingya broker received us and handed us over to two Burmese persons, who asked us to board another car that took us into a forest.”

The two men left them there to wait for someone to come and receive them, and soon another Burmese man came and asked them to follow him through the forest.

“We walked for two days to cross the forest. We had only water and no food. After taking a brief rest at night, he started walking again. It was extremely tiring, but we had no other option,” Sadek said.

When they finally crossed the forest, the Burmese man gave them four tickets for a bus to Yangon. After reaching Myanmar’s largest city, Sadek and the three women were again taken on a car to a forest near the Myanmar-Thailand border.

Three people – a Bangladeshi, a Burmese and a Rohingya – received them at the border.

They crossed the border into Thailand’s Satun province through another jungle. They stayed one night in the forest.

“Around evening, they took the women away, leaving me alone. They returned in the early hours the following day, and I saw that the two young Rohingya women were crying.”

Sadek said when he asked the two about it, they just replied that what

was happening to them was not right.

“In Thailand, we were kept in a hotel in Satun for a night. The next morning, we were asked to get on a truck full of vegetables,” said Sadek.

That journey continued for two days, and they survived by eating the vegetables on the truck. Two days later, they reached near the Thailand-Malaysia border, where a Thai national received them. They were taken to a house where they stayed for two days.

“On the third day, we crossed a small river by a fishing boat and reached Malaysia, where a local businessman received us and took us to his home in Johor Bahru,” said Sadek.

The traffickers then demanded an additional Tk 50,000 from Sadek to release him.

“My family in Cox’s Bazar paid the money and I was let go. But I do not know the fate of the three women travelling with me,” he said.

“During the journey, no one stopped us anywhere,” he said.

Sadek said he has been seeking help from rights groups so that he could stay in Malaysia legally.

‘A CUT-OUT STRATEGY’

Md Mahfuzul Islam, superintendent of police of Cox’s Bazar, said they got to know about the new route while investigating two trafficking cases filed with Ukhaia and Ramu police stations recently.

“We are working to identify the bosses behind these trafficking rackets,” he told The Daily Star recently.

He said while they remain alert, it is difficult to track the traffickers as they use a “cut out strategy” under which one group does not have information of another group.

Amir Jafar, commanding officer of APBn-8, said a section of Rohingya Majhis (leaders), who are in charge of different camps, is involved in the syndicates.

“We have kept a surveillance so that they do not get the scope to traffic people,” he added.

Asked about the claims of traffickers getting law enforcers’ support in the border, Lt Col Foyezur Rahman, director (operation) of BGB Headquarters, said he did not have any such information.

“We are always alert at the border to prevent all kinds of illegal activities to ensure security,” he added.