



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Audiences will get to see my love for football in ‘Damal’

SARIFUL RAZZ

ZAHID AKBAR

In recent times, Sariful Razz has received a lot of praise for his performance as the ravishing-ruffian, Roman in “Poran”. Similar to “Poran”, Razz’s other movie, “Hawa”, has also been performing well in theatres across Bangladesh. The talented actor is currently busy promoting Raihan Rafi’s football-based film, “Damal”, which will hit theatres on October 28.

The audience will once again get the chance to witness Razz’s crackling chemistry alongside Bidya Sinha Mim, in this film. “Damal” also stars Siam Ahmed, Rashed Mamun Apu, and Sumit, among many others.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Sariful Razz opened up about his love for football, his role in “Damal” and much more.

It seems like football has truly become your trusty ‘best friend’. We don’t see you anywhere without your football nowadays.

Honestly speaking, I don’t go anywhere without my trusty football. My whole life revolves around it now, and I am always taking pictures with it.

Which international football team do you support?

I am a huge fan of Brazil and my all-time favourite player is Ronaldinho

How did you perform the iconic ‘bicycle kick’ in “Damal”?

I had zero knowledge about how to do a bicycle kick. Thus, when the director told me that I had to perform the bicycle kick in a scene, I had major doubts about whether I would be able to execute it to perfection. I spent 3-4 months getting into the skin of my character in the film. So, I tried my best to make sure that scene was perfect, and I am really pleased with how it was shown in the trailer. The cinematographer truly captured the scene brilliantly in the film.

In the film, it feels as if football is more important than your wife? Why did it look like your wife was angry at you?

Unfortunately, in the film, my wedding date and football match fell on the same day. Time was ticking and the *kazi* was taking a lot of time. So, I had to stop him in the middle by shouting ‘Alhamdulillah Kobul’, before running off towards the field. When I returned after the match, my wife had locked the door and refused to let me enter. To know what happens next, the audiences will have to wait till October 28.

Tell us a little bit more about ‘Damal’?

“Damal” is inspired by the *Shadhin Bangla Football Team*, which was formed in 1971 during the Liberation War. In the movie, I play the captain of that team. When they go to the theatres, the audience will get to see my love for football in this film.

Both your films, “Hawa” and “Poran”, are still playing in theatres. “Damal” will also be released soon. What are your expectations from this upcoming film?

I am really happy that both my movies “Poran” and “Hawa” are doing exceptionally well at theatres. “Damal” will also be released next week and thus I am hopeful that the audience will shower their love on this movie as well.

Translated by Rakshanda Rahman Misha

Netflix defends ‘The Crown’ after ex-PM calls the show ‘malicious fiction’



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Streaming giant Netflix defended the latest season of its popular show “The Crown” after former British Prime Minister, Sir John Major lashed out at the show. The reason behind Sir John’s reactions

is the ‘alleged’ wrongful portrayal of King Charles plotting to dethrone the late queen.

Sir Major’s office issued a statement, describing the storyline as malicious and nonsensical.

In response, Netflix officials told the BBC, “The Crown has always been presented as a drama based on historical events. Series five is a fictional dramatisation, imagining what could have happened behind closed doors during a significant decade for the royal family.”

Chirkutt’s Sumi to attend two renowned musical events in Europe



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Celebrated musician and Chirkutt’s vocalist, Sharmin Sultana Sumi will represent Bangladesh at ‘Womex 22’, which will take place in Lisbon, Portugal and ‘Oslo World Music Festival’ in Norway.

The Womex event will kick-off on October 19, continuing till October 23, while the Oslo World Music Festival will take place between October 31 and November 6.

The Folk fusion band, Chirkutt has been on fire this year, winning the Bangladesh Brand Forum Award in the ‘Social’ and ‘Native’ categories for their initiative “Nodi Rocks”. In May of this year, they got to perform alongside the Scorpions at one of the world’s most famous venues, Madison Square Garden.

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Dinajpur student

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placing the portrait there.

This was done to tarnish the image of the government and the hospital authorities, he said in the statement.

Meanwhile, at the police station, Delwar Hossain, a friend of accused Moshir, told The Daily Star on Monday night that Moshir went to the hospital on Sunday afternoon to donate blood.

He found that a broken toilet door there and a portrait of Bangabandhu placed leaning on it. Later, he posted the photo on his Facebook page.

As the matter came to notice of the hospital authorities, they informed police on Sunday night.

Police detained Moshir that night.

Yesterday, police produced him before a Dinajpur court that sent him to jail after the case was filed on Monday night.

Tanvirul Alam, officer-in-charge of Dinajpur Sadar Police Station, said police were investigating the incident. He visited the spot and did not find any portrait of Bangabandhu on the toilet door.

Case against

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Metropolitan Magistrate Md Shafiuddin, bench assistant Gautam Chandra Das told The Daily Star.

The magistrate dismissed the case as he did not find “any cogent grounds”, the bench assistant said.

During the hearing, the magistrate recorded the statement of the complainant.

According to the complaint, at least 13 people were injured when BCL men attacked a rally organised by the Parishad in front of Raju Memorial Sculpture on the DU campus on October 7, marking the third death anniversary of Buet student Abrar Fahad.

A day after the attack, BCL men filed two attempted murder cases against 25 leaders and activists of the Parishad. Twenty-four of the accused later landed in jail.

BCL Organising Secretary Nazim Uddin and activist Aminur Rahman filed the cases with Shahbagh Police Station.

Abrar, a second-year student of electrical and electronics engineering at Buet, was beaten to death by Chhatra League men at the university’s Sher-e-Bangla Hall in 2019.

Action if polls officials

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“But we must know why they did what they did.”

In a move unusual in recent times, the Election Commission on October 12 halted the Gaibandha by-election, saying the situation went “out of control” due to widespread electoral anomalies.

While monitoring CCTV footage from the Dhaka EC office, CEC Kazi Habibul Awal and other commissioners saw the illegal presence of individuals inside polling booths, and voters being forced to cast votes for certain candidates by them.

At a press conference the next day, the EC held the local administration and presiding officers responsible for the irregularities, saying they failed to

maintain order at the polling stations.

It also formed a three-member probe committee to investigate the irregularities and asked it to submit a report within seven working days.

Meanwhile, a number of presiding officers have alleged that ruling Awami League men forced them to make written statements saying voting in the by-polls was “free and fair”.

In this regard, Alamgir told reporters yesterday that presiding officers do not have the jurisdiction to issue any such statement or letter.

“However, we don’t know whether they have really written such letters. The EC or the RO [returning officer] have not received any such written statements from them.”

Solar power the saviour

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demand in the country saw a rise on an average of 8 percent annually. Of the demand, 62 percent was met by gas power, while its renewable energy production accounted for only 1 percent of the country’s total power generation.

“The Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan published in 2021 laid out ambitious solar targets. Had this plan been fully implemented, additional solar generation could have reduced these imports by 25 percent between 2022 and 2024, saving about \$2.7 billion,” Ember’s report said.

Bangladesh’s Energy and Mineral Resources Division data show that by financial year 2021-2022, LNG imports accounted for 22 percent of the country’s total gas requirement.

On the other hand, IEEFA’s (Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis) recent analysis shows about 59 percent of its LNG imports come from the spot market, exposing the sector to volatile prices.

Before the government decided to stop purchasing liquefied natural gas from the international spot market in June, Petrobangla was supplying over 3,000 mmcfid (million cubic feet per day) gas to the national grid. The portion of LNG was over 770 mmcfid on average in June, which stood at 470-480 mmcfid since July.

Recently, the LNG price on the spot market has decreased, standing at under \$40 per MMBtu (metric million

British thermal unit) now, according to Petrobangla officials.

Petrobangla Chairman Nazmul Ahsan told The Daily Star that they were not thinking about buying LNG from the spot market again until the price came down.

“The share of LNG from the spot market is about 10 percent of the total supply,” he said and hoped that there would be no need to buy LNG from the spot market in the near future.

In 2021-22, the government spent Tk 7,614 crore to buy the 10 percent LNG from the spot market, whereas the 75 percent local gas production cost only Tk 5,196 crore, according to Petrobangla data.

In 2021-22, the government imported 18 shiploads of LNG from the spot market against its plan for importing 30 cargoes.

Contacted, Mir Mohammad Aslam Uddin Khan, deputy chief information officer of the energy ministry, told The Daily Star that currently the share of solar power production is 971 megawatts in the country.

“But we have more than 4,000 megawatts in the pipeline. The problem we face when planning for solar power is scarcity of land. Many initiatives linger due to land shortages. As the potential of solar power is abundant in the country, we are looking for a way out to solve the land crisis,” he said.

900 dengue cases

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“A fever patient will continue taking fluids even after recovery as there is still a chance that their health would deteriorate.”

Patients need to be hospitalised when they feel nauseous, suffer from abdominal pain, breathing problems or bleeding from any parts of their body, Tahmina said.

HM Nazmul Ahsan, associate professor at Shaheed Suhrawardy Medical College and Hospital, said severity of dengue infections can be avoided if the cases are diagnosed at an early stage.

For diagnosing dengue, a person has to undergo an NSI test on the first day of getting fever. High fever, body pain and headache are some common symptoms of dengue, he said.

A monsoon survey by the DGHS, conducted between August 11 and 23, found the presence of Aedes mosquitoes in 13.4 percent houses in Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC) area and 11.75 percent homes in Dhaka South City Corporation (DSCC) area.

A total of 1,319 households under

40 DNCC wards and 1,830 households under 58 DSCC wards were surveyed. The study also identified 13 DNCC wards and 14 DSCC wards as high-risk areas for dengue infection as the density of Aedes mosquitoes was higher in those wards.

Dr Md Ekramul Haque, deputy programme manager of malaria and ATD control programme at the DGHS, said they have already sent dengue diagnostic kits to every upazila and asked all hospital authorities to arrange separate wards for patients, if necessary.

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman of National University said as short-term measures, the authorities concerned will have to conduct surveys in risky areas to find out symptomatic or mild dengue patients.

They will also have to carry out intensive mosquito control operations in those areas to kill mosquitoes and build public awareness, he added.

The government, as long-term initiatives, should guide the municipalities and district authorities

properly, said Saifur.

Prof Kabirul Bashar, an entomologist of Jahangirnagar University, said a national vector control guideline and its proper implementation is necessary to control Aedes mosquito population.

A separate institute should be set up to conduct research and regularly share updates with the agencies involved in eradicating Aedes, he told The Daily Star.

“The institute will carry out research on all kinds of vectors like sun fly [which spreads kala azar], bed bugs and mosquitoes.”

Entomologist Manzur Chowdhury said dengue has already become an epidemic in the country.

Stressing the need for identifying the clusters of Aedes mosquitos, he said the authorities will have to collect the addresses of dengue patients for identification purposes.

“They will also have to take effective measures within a 500-yard radius of the homes of dengue patients. This measure is called hotspot management,” added Manzur.

Power outages every other hour

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Nighttime outages are mostly unscheduled, with distributors including the caveat that there may be load-shedding after midnight if needed.

Schedules this week added at least an additional hour or two of load-shedding than that of last week.

Some areas are bearing the brunt more than others. The residents of nearby Jurain got a better deal than Shyampur.

According to yesterday’s load-shedding schedule for areas under DPDC, Jurain and Postogola would have had at least six hours of load-shedding with residents getting some relief only after 2:00am.

The entirety of Lalbagh saw up to five hours of load-shedding yesterday, with two of those outages happening at night. According to the schedule, residents got only four hours of uninterrupted power supply at night.

Most of the areas served by the Dhaka Electric Supply Company

Limited (Desco) experienced a minimum of five hours of outages.

Official Desco schedules however kept the outages limited between 9:00am and midnight -- although consumers reported regular night outages at least once every night.

Some areas in Mirpur experienced six hours of load-shedding.

Bikash Devan, managing director of DPDC, said, “We failed [to provide electricity to the customers]. We are in a miserable situation where we are not getting electricity as per the demand.”

“For the previous few days, we have been getting less electricity than the allotment. The shortage of 500-550MW is huge in Dhaka. We have nothing to do without conducting load-shedding in different areas for four to five hours a day,” he added.

Md Kausar Ameer Ali, managing director of Desco, in the evening said they have a shortage of around 300MW since last week. “But today’s [yesterday’s] situation is good as of

now as we have a shortage of 150MW.”

Shameem Hasan, spokesperson of Bangladesh Power Development Board, said although the production is increasing, the demand is also increasing.

“If there is rain for even half an hour, you could see a dramatic change in the gap between demand and supply. We had hoped the temperature would start dropping this month, but that did not happen.”

Nasa’s Lucy probe

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#SpotTheSpacecraft, or images of themselves waving at the passing Lucy using the hashtag #WaveToLucy.

Members of the Lucy mission team based on Colorado had to drive to Nebraska to get out from under cloud cover in order to capture the video of Lucy streaking overhead that they then shared on the social media website Twitter.