

In fond memory of AZIZUR RAHMAN BULI



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Renowned producer-director of the golden age of Bangladeshi cinema, Azizur Rahman Buli passed away yesterday at 3:20 am in the capital's Red Care Hospital.

He shot the first Dhallywood film in the United States of America. Some of his

notable films are "Julie", "Amar Sansar", "Samsya", "Himmatwali", "Nawabjadi", "Matimah", "Love in Nepal", "Shaadi Mubarak" and "Kalu Gunda", just to name a few.

The entire film industry mourned his demise yesterday, and some of his closest colleagues talked to The Daily Star to pay tributes.



He was a true gentleman:

ILIAS KANCHAN

Apart from his numerous achievements as a director and producer, everyone knew him as a truly good person. The entire industry loved and respected him, and that is not an easy feat to achieve. I acted in his film "Shesh Uttar", possibly opposite Shabana, and in his film "Lalu Mastan" in a double role. I only understood after working with him, how much of a proficient technician he was.

He was a true gentleman. I never saw an ounce of pride with him, as he addressed everyone as 'apni'. Once, I asked him to address me as 'tumi', to which he politely refused. I pray that wherever he is, he finds peace.



I am left friendless:

SOHEL RANA

I cannot believe that he is gone. And with him, I have become friendless - I cannot stop crying, and I have lost all words.

You cannot just call anyone your friend - there needs to be a deep bond. And it would be and understatement to say that Buli and I were best friends. I am terrified now, terrified of how my close ones, one after another, are leaving me.

After hearing this news, I cannot remember any of his films from 50 years ago, I cannot remember any certain instances. All I can think of is his smiling face, one that I will never get to see again.

I can say without a doubt that there will never be anyone like him, he always wanted to take our films to the next level. May he rest in peace.

He was my guardian:

ROZINA

Buli bhai was like my guardian, I have learned a lot from him over the years. I have so many memories with him, that I don't even know where to start. We used to have get-togethers at Razzak bhai's (Nayak Raj Razzak's) home, where we were in smiles and laughter.

He was almost always the life of the party, and everyone loved him because of his earthly charm. He truly cared about his work, and his passion was also incomparable. We will miss him very much.



His personality astounded everyone:

ANJANA

Modern thinkers like Azizur Rahman Buli are rare. He tried to bring changes in our film industry, by bringing the variation in locations in the films.

During the 80s, there was no director or producer who would pluck up the courage to shoot films in foreign countries. It was a matter of a lot of money, and he was bold enough to do it.

After our marriage, I was

featured only in two of his films - 'Lalu Sardar' and 'Nepali Meye'.

As a director, he always took care of what his audience would like to watch. He always had a vision to take Bangladeshi cinema to another level.

When asked about how he was as a person, Anjana expressed her heartfelt emotions.

He was gentle as a person, and someone you would never hear speaking out loud. No one could ever say anything negative about him. His personality astounded everyone.



Advance tickets of 'Damal' begin selling out in Narayanganj

Raihan Rafi's "Damal" has already begun scoring 'goals', as the sale of advance tickets kicked off in Narayanganj. However, advance tickets from multiplexes in Dhaka are yet to be released.

CineScope in Narayanganj began selling advance tickets for "Damal" on Sunday afternoon. According to reports, most of the tickets for the first two days of screenings - on Friday and Saturday - have already been sold out.

Initially, CineScope will run four shows of "Damal" daily. However, the number of shows may increase further if public demand persists.

"Damal", which is based on real life events, has already captured the attention of audiences through its pre-release campaigns. The movie stars Sariful Razz, Siam Ahmed, Bidya Sinha Saha Mim, Rashed Mamun Apu and Sumit, among many others.

'Bachelor Point' director Ome gears up for web-series debut

"Bachelor Point" director Kajal Arefin Ome is all set to debut in the world of OTT, with his first web-series, "Hotel Relax." The project will comprise a total of six episodes.

The popular director has already signed a contract with the production company, Bongo BD for this project.

According to reports, the web-series will have many entertaining elements and will primarily target young audiences. While the makers didn't reveal the final cast and crew members, it is likely that the series will feature actors from "Bachelor Point".

According to sources from the production company, "Hotel Relax" might be released in February or March of next year, on their OTT platform.

NEWS

EC probe body

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CCTV CAMERA

Talking to reporters at his Agargaon office yesterday, commissioner Ahsan Habib claimed that using of CCTV cameras in elections acted as "enemy of miscreants".

He said the cameras work as "friend for those who behave well" during elections and the EC has planned to install cameras in and outside polling stations in all elections in future.

Ahsan said everyone knows what results the EC has got by using CCTV cameras and holding polls to Cumilla City Corporation, zilla parishads and municipalities elections in Meherpur and Jhenidah with electronic voting machines.

He added that the EC was not under any pressure for using the cameras in elections and it was working independently.

AL leader lands

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went into hiding.

Following this, Alauddin and the 16 others pleaded for bail before the High Court in Dhaka.

The court rejected their application and gave them three weeks to surrender to a local court.

The accused were taken into custody by the Pabna District Court after it rejected their second bail application.

A total of 23 people are currently in custody while the police are trying to locate the other accused.

Rats with backpacks

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survivors in a simulated disaster zone. They must first locate the target person in an empty room, pull a switch on their vest that triggers a beeper, and then return to base, where they are rewarded with a treat.

While the rodents are still in the early stages of training, APOPO is collaborating with the Eindhoven University of Technology to develop a backpack, which is equipped with a video camera, two-way microphone, and location transmitter to help first responders communicate with survivors.

"Together with the backpack and the training, the rats are incredibly useful for search and rescue," said Khan.

Cyclone may

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Of the deaths this year, 69 were in Dhaka, 22 in Cox's Bazar, 13 in Chattogram, five in Barishal, three each in Mymensingh and Khulna, and one each in Narsingdi, Narail, and Feni.

"There was a chance of a start of reducing dengue cases in the first week of November but the current rain may cause the situation to linger for 15 more days," said Prof Kabirul Bashar of Jahangirnagar University's department of zoology.

He said due to the rain, water will collect in dry containers where Aedes mosquitoes, which spread dengue, will get a suitable place to increase their population. He, however, said since there is a storm, adult mosquitoes could die and that would reduce the spread.

"City corporations as well as city dwellers will have to carry out source reduction work round the year to contain Aedes mosquitoes," he added.

At a programme in Dhaka on October 20, Nazmul Islam, director of DGHS's disease control wing, said they are expecting dengue cases to decrease from early next month.

He said many factors are behind the high dengue cases. "This year, the monsoon came late. There has been intermittent rain, barely any torrential rain, then regular rain due to low pressure. These issues have played a very important role."

Entomologist GM Saifur Rahman

Govt has no plans

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load-shedding in the country, the PM's adviser on Sunday called upon the people to try to save electricity so that more gas could be supplied to industries.

Addressing a group of businesspeople and trade body leaders during an event at a city hotel, Tawfiq-e-Elahi asked the businesspeople to make a pledge "not to use electricity during the daytime".

About Saturday's Khulna rally by the BNP, Hasan said bus and launch owners had called strikes on their own and the government or the AL didn't have any influence in their decisions.

BNP activists vandalised newly built Khulna Railway Station and attacked the Doulatpur AL office during the rally, the minister alleged. "Bus-launch owners and workers were worried as the BNP carried out arson attacks on buses and launches

of National University, Bangladesh said the breeding sides which were supposed to be inactive within a few days will be revived due to the current rain.

He said the Aedes mosquitoes' tendency to bite increases during this kind of weather.

After the rain stops, authorities concerned will have to take effective measures to destroy all breeding sources so that Aedes cannot breed and spread further, and they will also have to involve people in the process, he said.

Tahmina Shirin, director of Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) last week emphasised on the need for awareness campaigns involving councillors or locally influential persons to control Aedes mosquitoes in an area.

Talking to The Daily Star, she also suggested that people with fever, a major symptom of dengue, take sufficient fluids like oral saline, fruit juice, sorbet, and coconut water in case of fever.

"A patient will take fluids during fever and also continue it even after the fever goes away as there is a chance of deterioration after the fever," she said.

The patients should be hospitalised when they experience nausea, stomach pain, breathing problems or bleeding from any parts of the body, she advised.

from 2013 to 2015 and burnt workers and passengers to death. That's why they engaged the strikes."

Regarding a statement by BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir at the rally, Hasan said party Chairperson Khaleda Zia before the 2008 general election had said the AL won't be able to win even 30 parliamentary seats, but unfortunately it was her party which won only 29.

"My concern is that Fakhrul's statement of 10 seats would become true for themselves like it happened to Begum Zia's statement on 30 seats."

About Jatiya Party Chairman GM Quader's recent anti-government statements, Hasan said, "Actually, many people call Jatiya Party 'B Team'. So, he is making some tough statements to show that they are the opposition party. This is good."

Three sued

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The office approved the bills without proper scrutiny, sources said.

Contacted, Anisur, a grade-13 officer, admitted that he did not have the authority to submit the bills to the CAFO.

"Since I have good links with staffers at the CAFO office, they [businesspeople] asked me for help to submit the bills."

He said he became acquainted with the businesspeople during the Covid vaccination programme at the Tejgaon Health Complex.

"I didn't know that the bills were fake... I fell into a trap," Anisur claimed.

The bills were supposed to be produced by the "cash sarkars" of the respective hospitals, but Anisur used his influence at the CAFO to get those approved.

The Daily Star could not reach Mohsin and Mahfuz for comments.

In August 2020, the ACC filed a case against the project director of Shaheed M Mansur Ali Medical College and Hospital project in Sirajganj, Krishna Kumar Pal, over anomalies in procurement worth about Tk 30 crore.

Pak journo

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being treated as a case of mistaken identity. The circumstances of Sharif's death sparked widespread outrage in Pakistan and calls for an investigation.

Sharif worked for many years as a prime time television news show host for ARY News in Pakistan and had recently fled the country citing threats to his life. It was not immediately clear when he had arrived in Kenya.

The police report said a relative of Sharif had been driving the car. It said police had formed a roadblock using small stones, but the car drove through without stopping, even after officers opened fire. Nine bullets hit the car, and one hit Sharif in the head.

Kenya's Independent Police Oversight Authority, a civilian watchdog, has started an investigation into Sharif's killing, its chairwoman Ann Makori told journalists in a news conference yesterday.

"There's an alleged police killing of a Pakistani national at Tinga market, Kajiado county, last evening. Our rapid response team has already been dispatched," she said.

The Kennedys to visit Dhaka

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Kissinger circle sided with Pakistan, whose armed forces and collaborators massacred hundreds of thousands of Bangladeshis during the nine-month war, the then Senator Edward M Kennedy visited Bangladeshi refugee camps in India.

The plight and sufferings of the refugees there brought him to tears.

After independence, he visited Bangladesh in February 1972 and planted a banyan tree at the same spot on the Dhaka University premises, where one was uprooted by the then Pakistani government during the Liberation War, as that was where the students began their protests against Pakistani oppression.

Edward Kennedy was the first international figure who visited post-war Bangladesh.

In his speech during the visit, Kennedy said, "Although our

government has not recognised you, the people of the world do recognise you and all you have accomplished in the name of freedom."

Less than two months later, the US recognised Bangladesh.

Under the auspices of the US Department of State's Speakers Program, Edward M Kennedy Jr will also speak at the DU Senate Bhaban and deliver a lecture on disability rights at the Edward M Kennedy Center for Public Service and the Arts (EMK centre).

His wife Dr Katherine "Kiki" Kennedy and daughter Dr Kiley Kennedy will also deliver speeches respectively on mental health and STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths).

Liberation War Museum Trustee Mofidul Hogue said, "This is a private visit but it is also a journey into our history together."

First drought, now cyclone

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- Chattogram, Khulna and Barishal. Habibur Rahaman Chowdhury, director of the field services wing of the DAE, said the leave taken by any agriculture official on the coastal region was cancelled due to the cyclone.

"We already had meetings with the coastal district agriculture officials and gave necessary instructions for them to support the farmers."

Experts said the cyclone came as a second blow for the Aman production as the planting was previously hampered due to dry weather, and now production will be hampered due to the cyclone.

Aman, the second biggest crop after Boro, is a rain-fed paddy. It accounts for 39 percent of the total grains produced in Bangladesh.

Aman production depends heavily on monsoon rains as the time for preparing seedbeds to transplant seedlings ends during the peak rainy season in June-August.

The unfavourable weather conditions already forced farmers to go for supplementary irrigation to get the expected yield. Now the cyclone is feared to wreak havoc on the production, experts said.

Mohammad Jahangir, agribusiness and marketing professor at Bangladesh Agricultural University, said, "This is a double blow

for the Aman - first a drought and then a cyclone."

He said the paddy was already at an advanced stage of production, but severe winds will cause it to decrease.

"Basically, Aman went through a number of bad patches - drought, supplementary irrigation, high diesel and fertiliser costs, and now the cyclone."

Alam suggested the government take comprehensive plans to ensure proper Boro production, otherwise it will create a severe situation for the entire staple production of the country.

Meanwhile, people are fearing a massive impact on fishing enclosures in Khulna, Bagerhat and Satkhira due to the tidal surge.

Officials of the Department of Fisheries said a control room was already set up in Dhaka to monitor the situation in the coastal districts.

The department also issued an eight-point directive for the field level to ensure that the fish are not harmed.

In Khulna, there are 206,329 ponds and enclosures. Fish are farmed in at least 191,593 hectares of those.

Probhat Debnath, of Mahmudkati village in Khulna's Paikgacha, said if the water level increases up to four feet, the whole village will be inundated and all the fishing enclosures will wash away.