



'Baker bhai' was the actor's most iconic role on-screen.



AN ICON'S BIRTHDAY

Asaduzzaman Noor turns 76 today

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Asaduzzaman Noor is an icon in Bangladeshi television, theatre, and films. The actor's contributions to the aforementioned fields—along with the fact that he served as a freedom fighter and Minister of Cultural Affairs for Bangladesh—solidifies him as an icon in our entertainment industry.

He has been honoured with the Swadhinata Padak and National Film Award for his immense contributions as an artiste. Starting off his TV career with a small role in "Rongeen Fanush", he has had an upward trajectory as an actor.

Today marks the birthday of the legendary actor. On the occasion, Noor had a candid conversation with The Daily Star, where he discussed his love for Tagore, his most popular roles, his childhood, and much more.

The character of 'Baker Bhai' still lives on in the hearts of fans. How do you feel about that?

It both surprises me and makes me happy, at the same time. I always thought that the younger generation isn't aware of classic Bangladeshi TV shows. Later, I found out that during COVID, many young people watched the drama "Kothao Keu Nei" on YouTube. Some of them even memorised the dialogues.

Truth be told, when "Kothao Keu Nei" originally aired on BTV, it was an immediate hit—which is a rare incident in the history of



PHOTO: STAR

Bangladeshi Television. So invested were people in Baker Bhai, that they would start processions to protest his death sentence.

Can you recall what happened when the last episode of "Kothao Keu Nei" was aired?

At that time, I used to live with my family—my wife, mother, and children—in Eskaton. I was surprised to see that the streets were empty, because everyone was busy watching the finale in their homes.

I also remember that my mother left the room when the execution scene was being shown. She was not able to bear seeing the

scene, and decided to skip out on it.

You have played a lot of memorable characters over the years. Which character was your favourite one to play and which drama did you enjoy working in the most? If I have to mention just one drama, then I would say "Ayomoy". The character I played there, Mirza, is also one of my favourites.

You have turned 76 this year. At this stage, what do you think is the meaning of life?

For me, life is work. All of us are associated with some kind of work in our lives. Some write poetry and some work in the factory; I became an actor. At the end of the day, life is enjoyable. I recently spent some wonderful time with my granddaughter and my family, and this is what makes me happy.

You are successful as an artiste and a politician. Which identity of yours do you love the most?

First and foremost, I am Bengali. I want to live with this identity till the end. There is no place in Bangladesh where I have not visited as of yet. So, I am very connected with my roots as a Bangladeshi.

I have endless respect for Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Without him, our country wouldn't have existed in the first place. I am very proud to be a member of his political party. At the same time, I am also proud of my identity as a freedom fighter.

'Brahmāstra' coming to OTT



'Brahmāstra Part One: Shiva' is all set to stream on Disney+ Hotstar from Nov 4. Now viewers can live and relive the grand experience in their own comfort in a choice of their preferred language from Hindi, Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, and Malayalam.

This never seen before visual spectacle is headlined by some of the finest actors across the Indian Film Industry such as Amitabh Bachchan, Ranbir Kapoor, Alia Bhatt, Mouni Roy, and Nagarjuna Akkineni, among others in a universe that is loved and praised by everyone.

'Razz will rule over the film industry'



Pori Moni's luck quadrupled this year as she is enjoying the time of her life. She basking in the success of Sariful Razz's hatrick at the theatres, and her wonderful journey into motherhood with the birth of her son, Rajya.

The "Bishwo Shundori" actress is full of praises for Razz's acting form with "Poran", "Hawa" and "Damal."

"I want Razz to rule over the film industry, with his electrifying performances in movies. I want him to be loved by billions of fans with his powerful movies. His happiness and success is what keeps me driving and this is what is dearest to my heart," she added.

COUNTRYWIDE



Large portion of this paved road under Kanchanpur union in Tangail's Basail upazila has been devoured by the Jhenai river a few days ago.

PHOTO: STAR

RISE IN WATER LEVEL

Bangshi, Jhenai turn furious

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Tangail

Sudden rise in water level in the Jamuna river sees a rise of water in its branches, Bangshi and Jhenai rivers, as well, triggering serious erosion at several riverside villages in Mirzapur and Basail upazilas.

Villagers said more than 50 dwelling houses, two important paved roads and vast tracks of arable land in different areas have gone into the rivers in the last few weeks.

A large portion of the Kurni-Fatepur road in Palpara area that connects North Mirzapur with the upazila headquarters has been devoured by the Bangshi river, while parts of the Bilpara-Adabari road in Basail upazila has been eroded by the Jhenai river a couple of days ago, locals said.

As a result, all types of vehicular movements have been totally stopped due to the damaged roads, they added.

The Bangshi and Jhenai rivers flow through the two upazilas and join the Dhaleshwari river in Savar.

Locals said they had never seen such a rise in the water level in the two rivers during this time of the year.

During a visit to the areas this correspondent saw people from the Hindu community of Palpara village throwing salt, sugar, and bananas and pouring milk into the river, seeking mercy of the Ganga.

On the other hand, many panic-stricken people were trying to prevent the erosion by putting bamboos, logs and branches of trees.

Locals said the erosion-hit villages are in Tholpara, Fatepur, Bankata, Chakleshwar, Bailanpur, Patilpara villages under Fatepur union and Gorail village under Bhatgram union in Mirzapur upazila.

Many families of Bankata and Gorail villages have lost their homesteads and became destitute within couple of weeks, they said.

Locals fear that if the erosion is not prevented immediately more fresh areas will go into the river.

About 300 feet of the Kurni-

Fatepur road near Fatepur Bazar and about 600 feet area in Tholpara have gone into the rivers in the last five to six days, villagers claimed.

Headmaster of Fatepur High School Farid Miah said students from Tholpara, Bailanpur, Sutanri, Hilara and Adabari villages use the road to reach the institution.

If the road is not protected, local residents, especially the students, will suffer the most.

One of the villagers Abul Kalam Azad said Fatepur Haat, a centuries-old market in this region, is facing serious erosion threat.

Tangail Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) Executive Engineer Rafiqul Islam said they have requested the Water Development Board (WDB) to take necessary measures to check the erosion.

Contacted, Tangail WDB Executive Engineer Sazzad Hossain said they have instructed the in charge of the concerned area to take prompt action to prevent the erosion.

Ensure freedom

FROM PAGE 12

Experts, UN officials, and policymakers were present at the event moderated by UN Resident Coordinator Gwyn Lewis.

According to the report, Fry said he received a statement of claims from environmental and climate change human rights defenders that they have been subject to harassment, and imprisonment due to speaking out against climate change issues.

It appears that the Digital Security Act is being used to suppress public opinion.

Ukraine grain

FROM PAGE 12

Russia's defence ministry said yesterday it recovered debris from drones that attacked its fleet in Sevastopol, Crimea, saying they used the "safe zone" of a grain corridor and could have been launched from a "civilian ship".

The ministry also said its analysis showed that the drones were equipped with Canadian-made navigation modules for an attack that it said was carried out by Ukraine under British leadership, a claim Britain has denied.

Long passenger

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150 passengers.

It took the spectacular, spiralling Albul/Bernina route, listed as a Unesco World Heritage site, covering the nearly 25 kilometres from Preda to Alvaneu in less than 45 minutes.

Some 3,000 people who had snapped up coveted tickets, watched the trip on a giant screen set up near Bergun, at the halfway point in the historic journey.

Student loses leg

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demanding justice for the accident.

They also declared that they would demonstrate today demanding road safety.

Ninth grader

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the incident after word spread through the area.

They then rushed the girl to Jamalpur General Hospital, where she died on Saturday during treatment, the OC said.

81 dead in India bridge

FROM PAGE 12

for six months and was reopened for the public last week.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who is in his home state Gujarat for a three-day visit, said he had directed the state chief minister to mobilise teams urgently for the rescue operation.

Fifty navy and 30 air force officials were pressed into action along with

national disaster management team to trace missing people, the government said in a statement.

A five-member special team was appointed to conduct an investigation into the disaster.

Morbi is one of the largest ceramic manufacturing clusters in the world and accounts for more than 80 percent of India's ceramic output.

Myanmar's BGP expresses

FROM PAGE 12

in a landmine explosion along the border in Bandarban's Naikkhanchhari upazila.

The recent incidents, like mortar shell blasts and airspace violations, on the Bangladesh side of the border with Myanmar took place due to the raging conflict between the Myanmar military and the Arakan Army, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen told parliament yesterday.

Bangladesh, however, has so far shown patience in the face of Myanmar's provocations, he said in response to a question from ruling AL MP Momtaz Begum.

Momen said that as its neighbour, Bangladesh wants peaceful coexistence with Myanmar.

"For this, the foreign ministry is trying to resolve the ongoing problem regarding Myanmar's recent behaviour through diplomatic initiatives."

Permit stuck in mess

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However, the DC did not reply when he was texted twice for his comments over the matter.

Meanwhile, large numbers of BNP supporters are arriving in Barishal city to attend the rally.

They are doing this to avoid being stuck during the transport strike around the day of the event, said Mir Jahidul Kabir, member secretary of Barishal BNP.

Harun-ur-Rashid, general secretary of Bhola BNP, said "We have a target to send around 25,000 leaders and activists to the rally from Bhola. Many of our leaders and activists have already gone there," said.

In Pirojpur, multiple BNP leaders told The Daily Star that several hundred BNP men had already reached Barishal.

"They are now distributing leaflets, preparing billboards, and doing other tasks," said a senior leader of Pirojpur BNP, seeking anonymity.

A hotel owner in Barishal said, "All of my rooms have been booked by BNP men for November 4 and 5. Some 20 to 25 BNP men are already staying here."

On October 26, an association of bus owners in Barishal submitted a memorandum to the Barishal divisional commissioner stating that there would be a bus strike in Barishal on November 4 and 5, unless three-

wheelers were taken off the highways by November 3.

The BNP has been holding rallies in the divisional cities to protest the price hike of essentials. Transport strikes were called ahead of its recent rallies in Mymensingh, Khulna, and Rangpur.

The BNP maintains that these strikes are part of an attempt by the ruling AL to keep its supporters away.

About these allegations, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan and Information Minister Hasan Mahmud at separate programmes on October 27 said the ruling party had nothing to do with the strikes as transport associations were "independent".

However, according to reports, almost all the top leaders of the transport associations that called the strikes are either of the ruling party or are supporters of its allies.

Ted Kennedy Jr

FROM PAGE 2

A leading healthcare regulatory attorney for over 20 years, Ted helps healthcare clients identify, understand, and navigate the potential business impacts of key federal and state legislative, regulatory, and reimbursement changes.

He is also a staunch advocate for the self-determination and civil rights of individuals with disabilities.