



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

An artiste's desire is impossible to fulfill

FAZLUR RAHMAN BABU

“On my journey, I meet a lot of other people like me, who are broken by the circumstances of their lives. The sorrows and dreams of these people are the core element of the story. I am really proud to be releasing such a film.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Five-time National Film Award-winning actor Fazlur Rahman Babu has for the first time acted opposite Moushumi, in a film that will be released today, November 11. The movie is titled *Bhangan*, and is not the only movie Fazlur Rahman Babu has worked on recently. The talented actor also has several other movies awaiting release.

Apart from his upcoming films, Fazlur Rahman also received a lot of praise for his recent performance in the web-film, *Dui Diner Duniya*.

In preparation for the release of *Bhangan*, Fazlur Rahman Babu spoke to The Daily Star about the upcoming film, *Dui Diner Duniya*, working with Chanchal Chowdhury, and various other issues.

Could you share a bit about your movie *Bhangan*, which is being released today?

Bhangan has a rather exceptional story. The film follows the lives of the displaced people in Dhaka, who are living in the slums. I too, have played the role of a man who has been displaced from his home. In “*Bhangan*”, the audience will get to see me playing the flute

in different parts of Dhaka. I play the flute, and try to make a living by doing so. On my journey, I meet a lot of other people like me, who are broken by the circumstances of their lives. The sorrows and dreams of these people are the core element of the story. I am really proud to be releasing such a film.

Will this be the first time you are working with Moushumi in a film?

Yes, this is the first time Moushumi and I are working together on a film. She has been a fantastic co-star and is a very professional artiste. In the film, our characters are very close to each other, as we are both displaced and broken people. Both of us shot various scenes together at Bangladesh Film Development Corporation. We also had various shoots in railway stations in Dhaka. However, both of us have worked together on dramas and serials in the past.

Over your career, you have played a variety of roles in dramas and films. Do you feel satisfied with your body of work?

An artiste is never satisfied. The artist's desire is difficult, maybe even impossible, to fulfill. So, as an artiste myself, I always want to see myself in new stories and characters. After

finishing one character, I want to move on to the next one. I enjoy having the challenge of new roles, characters and films to keep myself busy. However, the desire to do more always persists. This is my philosophy of art, and part of that is that an artiste can never truly be satisfied with his work.

What other new films are you currently working on?

Currently, I am shooting for another new film. We just finished the first set of shooting. The film is called *Jol Pahar aar Patader Golpo*, and I am playing the role of a headmaster of a school in the film. The movie has been directed by Mehedy Hasan Arnob, and it was shot in the mountains. The role of a school teacher is something completely new for me.

Tell us about your experience of working on the web film, *Dui Diner Duniya*?

I had a great time working on *Dui Diner Duniya*. It was fantastic to work with Chanchal Chowdhury, and I am getting a lot of praise for my role in this web-film. People also seemed to really enjoy the songs featured in the film. In my opinion, I really felt immersed into my character in it.

Kamar's 'Anyadin..' headed to Festival des 3 Continents in France

Kamar Ahmad Simon's “Anyadin...” (Day After) has officially been invited to the International Feature Competition of France's Festival des 3 Continents. Only ten films have been selected to be screened for this year's International Feature Competition.

The festival—which features critically acclaimed films from Africa, Latin America, and Asia—has been held in November in France every year since 1979. The festival selects fiction and non-fiction feature films from three continents that narrate the story of a world beyond Western hegemony.

Apart from Kamar's *Anyadin...* from Bangladesh, there are films from Indonesia, Singapore, Brazil, Vietnam, Myanmar, India, Japan, Qatar, and Iran in the competition.

Around the same time, another critical non-fiction festival RIDM (Rencontres Internationales du documentaire de Montréal), has also invited ‘Anyadin...’ for its International Competition segment.



Keanu Reeves to return as John Wick in spin-off 'Ballerina'



Keanu Reeves will once again take on the role of John Wick in Ana de Armas' *Ballerina*, which is a John Wick spin-off.

In *Ballerina*, Ana de Armas will play the role of a teenage assassin, who seeks vengeance on those who murdered her family. Another actor from the John Wick universe, who will be featured in *Ballerina*, is Ian McShane.

Producer Basil Iwanyk described McShane's part in the film as ‘pivotal’.

“We're happy to have Ian McShane join us for a critical part in *Ballerina*. He's been a part of the series since the first John Wick movie. It's been great having him along for the ride as the Wick world grows,” Iwanyk told Variety.

Ballerina is directed by Len Wiseman and written by Shay Hatten.

NEWS

PM to open construction

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China will provide 65 percent of the total project cost of Tk 16,901 crore, they said.

Once built, the 24km expressway will connect Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport with Abdullahpur, Ashulia, Baipail and Dhaka Export Processing Zone on the Nabinagar-Chandra highway. Vehicles using the road will have to pay toll, said project officials.

It is also expected to boost the country's gross domestic product by 0.21 percent, show project documents.

The work of the expressway was set to start four years ago after the

Executive Committee of the National Economic Council approved the project. The work was scheduled to be completed by June next year.

The physical work, however, could not begin as the Chinese authorities delayed approving the loan.

Now, the project authorities want to complete the work within four years.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday said Bangladesh is making commendable progress in development for her government's long stay in power.

“Since we have been in power for three consecutive terms, the country's development [works] is getting visible,” she said.

Man killed

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“Upon sensing the presence of Rab, Shaheen and his team opened fire on our men. They were also pelting them with brickbats. As Rab returned fire in self-defence, Shaheen collapsed while his companions fled,” said Momen.

Shaheen was the gang leader, he added.

Momen also claimed that they rushed a bullet-ridden Shaheen to the Mugda Medical College Hospital in the capital where he died at 4:00pm.

However, Shaheen's brother-in-law Parvez claimed that Shaheen was picked up from Chonpara around noon and then taken to a place adjacent to Demra College and shot.

He furnished this newspaper with a video clip purportedly taken by an eyewitness.

The Daily Star could not independently verify the authenticity of the clip, which starts with the sound of an apparent gunshot.

It shows a group of men in civil clothes carrying what appears to be a motionless body. At least one of the men was seen carrying a firearm.

This newspaper spoke to the person who claimed to have taken the video but is refraining from disclosing the person's identity out of safety concern.

“I was standing in front of Demra College. I heard a gunshot and walked towards the sound and saw a boat coming ashore on the [adjacent] river. A group of people carried a man out of the boat. Then they pressed a gun

against his leg and shot him. They also fired a shot in the air,” said the eyewitness. “That is when I started recording the video.”

The eyewitness said the incident happened at the time of Zohr azaan, and Parvez claimed the video was sent to him at 1:03pm.

Mugda Police Station Officer-in-Charge Jamaluddin Mir said Shaheen was declared dead at 4:20pm, quoting the doctors of Mugda hospital.

“I could not find a time of admission to the hospital in his documents but the doctor said he [Shaheen] arrived a while before his death,” he said.

Mugda Medical College Hospital doctors sent Shaheen's body to Dhaka Medical College morgue, according to DMCH sources. They did not send over any documents attesting to his time of death or what treatment he had received when Rab supposedly took him there, said the sources.

Lt Col Momen said Shaheen was a listed criminal and that four to five Rab men were injured in the “gunfight”.

“We are filing the case,” he told our correspondent late last night.

He was asked about the video clip but was yet to respond when this report was filed at 2:00am today.

Deaths due to “crossfires” and “gunfights” had dwindled following the sanctions slapped on Rab's top brass by the United States.

Ain o Salish Kendra counted three deaths in “crossfires” with law enforcement agencies this year.

Mueller

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to let him rest before the World Cup... (and) heal completely” when explaining Mueller's absence from the side.

Germany play their first match of the World Cup against Japan on November 23.

Bangladesh wants

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ambassador, he said Bangladesh wants to strengthen trade relations with the brotherly nation.

The Saudi ambassador said that the interest of Saudi companies in investing in power and energy sector in Bangladesh is growing.

ACWA Power Company of Saudi Arabia is moving ahead with a plan to invest \$1.5 billion in Bangladesh, he mentioned.

Is Samrat back?

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On November 12, the Anti-Corruption Commission also lodged a complaint against him for acquiring assets worth Tk 2.94 crore beyond his known sources of income.

ACC Deputy Director Jahangir Alam, also the investigation officer of the case, submitted a charge sheet against Samrat on December 7, 2020, stating that he siphoned off around Tk 220 crore and channelled it to casinos in Singapore and Malaysia between 2011 and 2018.

Samrat had earlier been granted bail in the three cases filed over possession of arms and narcotics, money laundering, and amassing wealth beyond known sources of income.

He was finally released from jail on August 25 after securing bail in a money laundering case.

Fresh gas found

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cubic feet of gas was extracted from a depth of 3,450 metres.

The company started the well workover on September 10 amid the current gas shortage.

“A 3D seismic survey project has been taken for Beanibazar upazila,” he said, adding that plans to dig new wells would be made later.

The company also has plans to start workovers of Kailashtila-2, Rashidpur-2, Rashidpur-5 and Haripur-7 wells by the end of 2023, he said.

2 Bangladeshis

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of those living in the two-storey lodging were from India and Nepal.

Some 1 lakh Bangladeshis work in the Maldives, mostly in the hospitality and construction sectors.

Officials said the dead bodies were recovered from the top floor of the building. The fire originated from the ground floor's vehicle repair shop. The migrants used to live on the first floor.

The Maldives National Defence Force Fire and Rescue Service informed that 28 people were evacuated from the building.

According to the Maldives news portal Sun Online International, the fire broke out in the M Nirufehi area near the Maaveyo Mosque around 12:30am and took about four hours to be doused.

According to AFP, the capital of

the archipelago best known as an upmarket holiday destination is one of the world's most densely populated cities. Maldivian political parties have criticised conditions for foreign workers.

They are thought to make up about half of Male's 250,000-strong population and are mostly from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

Their poor living conditions were brought to light during the Covid-19 pandemic when the infection spread three times faster among foreign workers compared to locals.

Meanwhile, Maldivian Foreign Minister Abdullah Shahid called Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen yesterday to condole the deaths.

“We think it is an accident and we are investigating it,” Shahid told Momen.

Jubo League all set

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pulled huge crowds, such a grand rally will be the maiden one by any associate body of AL.

Though the Jubo League is organising the rally, AL, its associate bodies and pro-AL organisations are working to ensure the presence of around 10 lakh people at the Suhrawardy Udyan, said Jubo League leaders.

“Jubo League men from 64 districts will join the rally. We will also show our strength through this rally as a counter to the divisional rallies of BNP,” an organising secretary of Jubo League told The Daily Star, seeking anonymity.

Since the BNP started holding of a series of rallies as part of its fresh anti-government movement, the AL has decided to remain on the streets, said an AL leader who was present at the AL working committee meeting on October 28.

The party also decided to hold six to seven rallies in Dhaka over the next two months to counter the BNP “heating up” the country's political arena ahead of the next national elections, slated for January 2024.

Talking to The Daily Star, Mainul Hossain Khan Nikhil, general secretary of the Jubo League, said, “The rally will not be limited to youth gatherings. We believe that people from all walks of life, especially those who love the country and love the

people, will turn this rally into a large gathering.”

“This rally is against the criminal activities of the BNP-Jamaat who carried out vandalism and arson attacks in the name of movement,” he added.

Sheikh Fazlul Haque Moni, nephew of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, founded the AL's youth body on November 11, 1972.

The BNP earlier announced that it would stage rallies in 10 divisional cities to protest the ongoing power crisis, price hikes of daily essentials and the killing of five of its activists in police firing in Bhola, Narayanganj, Munshiganj and Jashore during the anti-government movement.

The party has so far held five rallies at five divisional headquarters and is going to organise the next rally in Faridpur tomorrow.

It plans to wrap up its divisional rallies through a huge gathering in Dhaka city on December 10.

PREPARATION

To make the Jubo League rally a success, leaders and activists of its different units hold a series of preparatory meetings.

A huge boat-shaped stage was built at the Suhrawardy Udyan while banners and festoons were put up around the rally venue.

Entry to the venue has been closed for the last two days for security reasons.

Bomb found in AL

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wrote the names and full addresses of Hasan and Kaiyum. But only the names and ages of the six others were mentioned by him.

Contacted, Jubo Dal leader Shamim said he did not even know Hasan who was caught with the explosives.

“Police should have sued the AL leaders close to Hasan,” he said. Alokballi union BNP leader Alam said, “I was named as an accused for the sole purpose of harassing me.”

Yousuf, the officer who filed the case, didn't answer his phone when this correspondent called him multiple times.

Abul Kashem Bhuiyan, the officer-in-charge of Narsingdi Sadar Police Station, hung up when this correspondent asked him why the BNP men were accused.

Meanwhile, Asadullah, president of Alokballi Union AL, said rival groups within the party put the explosives at Hasan's house to implicate him in the case. “Organisational actions will be taken against those found involved.”

Al Amin Mia, an additional superintendent of police in Narsingdi, said, “Police do not file cases against anyone without a reason... Political identity is a personal matter. But we are looking into the matter.”

World's largest

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the Soviet space shuttle.

Its later life, while slightly less glamorous, was equally iconic—it was the world's largest cargo transporter, with around twice the hold capacity as a Boeing 747, winning cult status among self-styled geeks. It stretched to 84 metres, or 275 feet, with the longest wingspan of any fully operational airplane. To date, it is the heaviest aircraft ever built.

Its destruction was announced on February 27, 2022, with Ukrainian Foreign Minister Dmytro Kuleba tweeting that “Russia may have destroyed our ‘Mriya’... but they will never be able to destroy our dream of a strong, free and democratic European state.”

The Antonov Company said at the time that it was unable to verify the condition of the plane, while CNN journalist Vasco Cotovio noted that the nose had apparently taken “a direct artillery hit” and was “completely destroyed” when he saw it on an April visit.