

I want to continue performing on stage for as long as I can

SHAHED ALI



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

From the stage to the silver screen, Shahed Ali is a renowned face in every medium. Recently, he has been prominently featured on OTT platforms, earning accolades for his roles in *Mohanagar*, *Kaiser* and *Refugee*, among others. Soon, the actor will be seen alongside Apu Biswas, in the government-granted film, *Laal Shari*, along with a handful of other web and television projects. Speaking to The Daily Star, the actor shared his thoughts on his recent projects, his career and much more.



From the stage to the silver screen, you have played a variety of roles. At this point, are there any characters left on your wish list?

Definitely. There are so many roles that I wish to play, for instance, I would love to play a woman, professor, farmer, architect, sailor, etc. These are the roles I still wish to play.

How would you rate yourself as an actor?

I won't rate myself as an actor, because I am hardly satisfied with my own acting. Whenever I watch myself on the screen, I tend to watch out for flaws. Sometimes

I am embarrassed to see myself performing, and I feel that I could have done a much better job.

Have any of your characters left a mark on your heart?

Yes, there are a few of them. Such as Bullet from *Kaiser*; Moslem from *Refugee*; the cult-leader in the fiction *Koinna*; and Babu from the film *Udhao*. These are the roles that hold a special place in my heart.

You have been working in the industry for a long time now. Do you feel that the professionalism amongst the fraternity has increased?

The industry still lacks professionalism. This is one of the greatest obstacles we face when working. We need to learn, unlearn and re-learn a lot of things. Only then, can we become a professional industry.

Since when did you begin working in the theatre?

Since 1997, I have been actively working on stage, with the troupe Prachyanat. I have worked in numerous plays from this group, acting in projects like *Circus Circus*, *Koinna*, *Raja Ebong Onnanyo*, *A Man for All Season*, *Dorir Khela* and many more. I want to continue performing on the stage for as long as I can.

Could you tell us about your upcoming projects?

I am currently shooting for the film *Laal Shari*, and am in talks for some other new projects, both for the silver screen and the web. I also have two other projects in hand, one of which is a serial titled *Jhorer Pakhi*, another a fiction *Jadur Nagar*—which will begin airing soon. Simultaneously, I will also appear in Vicky Zahed's serial, which will also be aired soon.

Translated by Sharmin Joya

Abul Hayat to receive Lifetime Achievement Award from Deepto TV

Noted actor, playwright and director, Abul Hayat won over the hearts of millions with his remarkable performances on radio, television, the stage and the silver screen, over five decades. The actor received several prestigious awards over his illustrious career, including the Ekushey Padak.



This time, the talented actor will be honoured with the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' as part of the 'Deepto Awards 2022', which will take place on November 18. Organised by Deepto TV, the award ceremony is being organised on the occasion of their seventh anniversary.

Deepto TV will be telecasting 'Deepto Awards 2022' live on November 18, around 7 pm.

130 artistes sign statement demanding unconditional release of 'Saturday Afternoon'

Be it film, fiction, music or any other cultural activity, in recent times, the cultural arena has been facing various obstacles—which has made it difficult for one to practice and produce art freely.

These concerns were brought to the forefront of the mainstream, when the Film Censor Board of Bangladesh placed a halt on the release of Mostafa Sarwar Farooki's film, *Saturday Afternoon*. The censor board's justification for halting the film's release was due to them alleging that it would 'damage the image of the country'.

In reaction to this, a joint statement was released yesterday, which was signed by 130 cultural activists and artistes. They have given a statement expressing their concerns regarding the censor board halting the release of the film.

The statement was published to draw the attention of all concerned authorities and people, because a meeting of the appeal committee has been convened for November 17. All 130 artistes have demanded that the film passes the censor board and is released for the Bangladeshi audience.



NEWS

PDB makes fresh bid

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consumers," he told reporters.

The current socioeconomic and power supply situation was taken into consideration when making the BERC decision, Jalil added.

As a result, the electricity tariff remains unchanged since February 2020.

The last public hearing on a proposal of the state-owned BPDB to raise bulk power tariffs was held on May 18.

The BPDB placed a proposal to raise bulk power tariffs by 65.57 percent at the public hearing while a technical evaluation committee of BERC recommended a 57.83 percent hike.

While placing the proposal, BPDB officials had said the state-owned company will need Tk 74,189 crore to generate 88,993 million kilowatt hours (units) of electricity to supply to the power distribution companies.

If the BPDB sells its electricity at the existing rate of Tk 5.17 per unit, it will have to face a deficit of Tk 30,251 crore in revenue in 2022.

So, BPDB needs to raise the

power tariff by 65.57 percent to Tk 8.56 per unit from Tk 5.17, a BPDB top official said at the hearing.

Subsidy from the government was not factored in the calculations, he added.

The power division has been under tremendous pressure from the finance ministry to raise power tariffs.

The BPDB has been incurring a huge financial loss due to its purchase of electricity from private power plants at a much higher rate and selling it to consumers at a lower rate.

At the public hearing on May 18, consumer rights groups, including representatives from different business bodies, vehemently opposed any major rise in power tariffs as people are already struggling with inflation caused by high commodity prices.

They termed the proposal illogical and said BPDB can offset its revenue deficit by addressing irregularities, corruption and unethical practices in buying electricity from inefficient private power plants at higher rates.

Fardin killed

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involved were arrested.

Last night, Rajib Al Masud, deputy commissioner of Motijheel division of the Detective Branch, which has been tasked with investigating the murder, said they were yet to be certain where Fardin was murdered.

Mohammad Harunur Rashid, additional commissioner (Detective Branch) of DMP, on Saturday told UNB that police were suspecting that Fardin was killed somewhere in Dhaka.

"After analysing Fardin's mobile data and talking to the people with whom he had communicated before his death, we're assuming that he might've been killed in Dhaka. We've also come to know that he had gone to Narayanganj. We can't say anything concrete right now for the sake of the investigation," Harun had said.

Dalia Begum, wife of Rayhan, on Sunday claimed that Rayhan along with his two associates — Uzzal and Roni — were picked up by law enforcers in Barishal on Saturday.

Rayhan's associate Rashidul Islam Shaheen aka City Shaheen, an alleged drug dealer of Chonpara slum, was killed in a "gunfight" during a Rab operation in the slum on Thursday.

Xi urges better ties in rare summit with Australia

AFP, Nasa Daa

Chinese President Xi Jinping yesterday called for soured relations with Australia to "improve" and "develop", as the two countries held a first formal summit in more than five years.

After years of animosity that hampered trade ties and froze top-level meetings, Prime Minister Anthony Albanese said the meeting had been "positive and constructive".

The talks lasted just 32 minutes and took place on the margins of a G20 summit in Bali, but signalled a major diplomatic shift.

Two killed

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hit Lviv, which is less than 80kms from the border with Poland.

Polish Prime Minister Mateusz Morawiecki has called an urgent meeting of a government committee for national security and defence affairs, government spokesman Piotr Muller said on Twitter.

A government security spokesman and a representative of the prime minister's office declined to comment further.

Muller told reporters later yesterday that the committee was convened due to the "crisis situation", adding that relevant information will be presented to the public later. He called on media not to publish "unverified information" in the meantime.

600-yr-old

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under the province's Historic Resources Act. The 600-year-old coin predates the first documented European contact with North America since the Vikings, in a region with a 9,000-year-old history of human settlement and rich Indigenous traditions.

After consultation with Paul Berry, a former curator of the Bank of Canada's Currency Museum, the coin was identified as a Henry VI quarter noble, minted in London between 1422 and 1427. In the 1400s, the coin would have represented a significant sum of money, valued at 1 shilling 8 pence, or around 81 Canadian dollars (\$61) today.

Prior to this discovery, a coin minted in the 1490s and found in 2021 at the province's Cupids Cove Plantation Provincial Historic Site was considered the oldest English coin ever found in Canada.

Honour for

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international sensations like Burna Boy, Anoushka Shankar and Masa Takumi.

Nashid Kamal is an eminent Bangladeshi vocalist, writer, and a professor of demography.

Armeen, a renowned Bangladeshi singer-composer, rose to fame with the hit single, 'Bhromor Koilo', a remake of Radha Raman's classic, which she sang right out of high school. She is a graduate of the prestigious Berklee College of Music.

Grammy Awards ceremony will be held at the Crypto.com Arena in Los Angeles on February 5.

Humanity hits 8 billion mark

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most populous nation next year.

But even while the global population reaches new highs, demographers note the growth rate has fallen steadily to less than 1 percent per year. This should keep the world from reaching 9 billion people until 2037. The UN projects the global population will peak at around 10.4 billion people in the 2080s and remain at that level until 2100.

Most of the 2.4 billion people to be added before the global population peaks will be born in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the UN, marking a shift away from China and India.

Reaching an 8 billion global population "is an occasion to celebrate diversity and advancements while considering humanity's shared responsibility for the planet," UN Secretary General António Guterres said in the UN statement.

Having more people on Earth puts more pressure on nature, as people compete with wildlife for water, food and space. Meanwhile, rapid population growth combined with climate change is also likely to cause mass migration and conflict in coming decades, experts say.

And whether it's food or water, batteries or gasoline, there will be less to go around as the global population grows. But how much

they consume is equally important, suggesting policymakers can make a big difference by mandating a shift in consumption patterns.

Carbon emissions of the richest 1 percent, or about 63 million people, were more than double the emissions of the poorest half of humanity between 1990 and 2015, according to a 2020 analysis by the Stockholm Environment Institute and non-profit Oxfam International.

Resource pressure will be especially daunting in African nations, where populations are expected to boom, experts say. These are also among the countries most vulnerable to climate impacts, and most in need of climate finance.

If diplomats cross the line

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Recalling 2018 election, Ambassador Naoki said the Japanese embassy in Dhaka had issued a statement of concern which was very unusual for his country though it was focused more on violence.

The state minister hoped that common sense would prevail in the days to come and the diplomats would act accordingly.

"When we will see it's crossing the line, we are saying very clearly and loudly that we will take appropriate steps," he said.

The state minister said he has nothing else to say beyond this, specially about the very friendly country Japan.

He said the government is committed to hold a free and fair election and the Election Commission is working to that end.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Ito Naoki on Monday said they expect that the next national election in Bangladesh will be held in a "free and fair" manner with the participation of all major political parties.

Bangladesh among first

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countries could face \$580 billion per year in climate-linked "loss and damages".

Saleemul Huq, an adviser to the Climate Vulnerable Forum, said the fund is a type of loss and damage fund that uses insurance plus other measures, and Bangladesh is one of the countries included in the scheme.

"However, it is not a substitute for agreeing to the Finance Facility for Loss and Damage in COP27," he said.

Germany has already announced their contribution at COP27. Chancellor Olaf Scholz yesterday announced Germany's contribution of 170 million euros to the shield.

World Bank estimates that by 2040, over 130 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by climate change.

The membership of the V20 group, the beneficiaries of this initiative, stands at 58 economies representing some 1.5 billion people including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chad, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, The Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Palau, Palestine Territories, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tanzania, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Tuvalu, Uganda, Vanuatu, Vietnam and Yemen.

"We expect the next election will be a better one. Free and fair elections need to be done here. That's my strong hope," he said while responding to a question at an event titled "Meet the Ambassador" held in a Dhaka hotel.

Big sticking points

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The draft document released Monday night is titled a "non-paper," making clear it was far from an official draft of what might actually be approved by countries at the summit's close, scheduled for Friday, as the core political agreement from the two-week event.

"It's all boiling down to the last days," EU environment policy chief Virginijus Sinkevicius told Reuters on the sidelines of the summit.

"It seems like still we are quite far from what we would love to have as an outcome, but I'm sure as more and more energy is put in, it will boil down to the last days and maybe last minutes," he said.

Brazil's top diplomat at the talks said that, aside from the released text, there were several other proposed texts circulating between delegations but were not yet ready to be made public.

"It's natural, as time runs out, to reach more concrete and more ambitious decisions," Paulino de Carvalho Neto told Reuters.

Nevertheless, he suggested the talks could extend beyond the Friday deadline into the weekend. "It is possible that this will happen. But it's early for us to say that," he said.