

# MANOJ PRAMANIK: Actor, Teacher, Dreamer

SHARMIN JOYA

Manoj Pramanik has the ability to leave a mark amongst the audiences with the smallest of roles. He donned up several characters, one different from another over the years, making his acting portfolio stronger with time. The web projects that he starred in, including *Redrum* (directed by Vicky Zahed), *Nishiddho Bashor* (Nurul Alam Atique), and the recently released *Muntasir* (directed by Ifjat Jahan Momo), are all testaments to his talent.

He also earned accolades for his silver screen appearance in *Operation Sundarban* (directed by Dipankar Dipon). He will also be seen in the film *Birkonna Pritilata* (directed by Pradip Ghosh), which awaits release.

The actor is also serving as the Assistant Professor of Film and Media Studies department, at Jatiya Kabi Kazi Nazrul Islam University, Mymensingh.

**You're usually seen portraying diverse characters. What is your script selection process?**

I have been selective about the television projects in the recent times. Also, I am thankful to the OTT platforms for opening up a new avenue, where there is scope to tell stories in different ways. As a result, we are able to experiment and audience are appreciating this variation.

**How was your experience of working in 'Muntasir'?**

To tell you the truth, this project has a different approach. We are used to watching the projects related to abuse, primarily focused on women. Somehow, we ignore or miss the stories that are regularly occurring with boys, especially as a child or in their adolescence. I myself have heard a lot of stories about men being abused, which are easily overlooked. I played the titular role in this project, and Muntasir is a victim of abuse from his childhood. While donning up the role, I felt the character and it really moved me emotionally. Putting up such kind of stories on the screen is commendable and needs to be focused on.

**Your upcoming release is 'Birkonna Pritilata'. Tell us more about it.**

It is a periodic film, where Nusrat Imrose Tisha played the titular role. I played Ramkrishna Biswas, who is the inspiration of Pritilata Waddedar. Many are ignorant about this information. It was challenging to build the character and portray him on the screen. We shot a portion in central jail, the place itself is the witness of this history.

**The film was supposed to release on November 25. However, it has been now postponed...**

Yes, due to some technical issues the film's release has been postponed. As soon as the post production is over, the release date will be announced. It may take a week.

**You have been teaching at the Department of Film and Media Studies for six years now. What is your opinion about film departments in our country?**

Even a few years ago, filmmaking was not a 'serious' job, it did not have any social acceptance as career. Film and Media Studies is now an accepted subject in the educational institutes, which is a great deal for us. I can see many emerging filmmakers are doing great things in the industry after they are done with their studies from the department. Some of my students have also worked for the industry, including works like the series *7 Dugune 14*, which aired on Bioscope produced by Alpha i. Another project was released on victory day (December 16) last year titled *Gaibo Bijoyer Gaan*, which was also appreciated. Golam Muntakim, one of my students also directed the webfilm *Ekjon Telapoka* for Chorki. As a teacher,



PHOTOS: SHEKH MEHEDI MOHAMED & COLLECTED

# Swastika Mukherjee looking for a groom



Tollywood's Swastika Mukherjee is looking for her ideal groom on Facebook. The *Qala* actress has penned down the qualities that her husband needs to have, in order to impress her.

The man must be an avid book lover, and preferably someone who is a dog lover. He needs to listen to good music, and travel around the world with her. He also needs to have the guts to have a conversation with her in

Bangla for 10 minutes, without using any English words.

The actress captioned the news along with her bridal video shoot for "Indulge".

Meanwhile, Swastika's latest Hindi movie *Kora Kagazz*, was released on Friday. Directed by Nawneet Ranjan, the movie stars Rajat Kapoor, Aishani Yadav. Her latest web film *Qala* starring Babil Khan and Tripti Dimri will be premiered on Netflix on December 1.

# 'Squid Game' actor Oh Young-soo indicted for sexual misconduct



*Squid Game* actor Oh Young-soo has been indicted on charges of sexual misconduct and harassment. A woman has accused the 78-year-old actor for inappropriately touching her body in mid-2017. However, Oh Young-soo has denied all of the charges.

The Seongnam branch of the Suwon District Prosecutors Office indicted the actor without detention on the December 2021 case. While the police closed the case without filing any charges, the prosecution reopened the investigation due to the plea by the victim.

Oh Young-soo won the Best Supporting Actor - Television at the 2022 Golden Globe Awards for his role in *Squid Game*.

# NEWS

## Govt nod

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proposal to hold the programme, the last of BNP's divisional rallies, at Suhrawardy Udyan, he said the BCL has programmes planned in the area on December 8 and 9, and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to attend the one on the 8th.

"The place will be occupied by Chhatra League till the day before the December 10 rally... We will need at least a day or two to prepare for the rally. If they [BCL men] end their programme on December 9, how will we prepare for ours? Our activists coming to the city the day before... Where will they stay?"

He added, "We are adamant about holding the rally peacefully at Nayapaltan, in compliance with the constitution."

His reaction came hours after Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal said no official permission has been given to the BNP yet to hold its rally at Nayapaltan.

"As big rallies cannot be held anywhere else except the Suhrawardy Udyan, the government decided to give BNP the permission for that venue," he told reporters yesterday.

The home boss said the BNP itself requested for Suhrawardy Udyan, along with two other venues, and the Dhaka Metropolitan Police commissioner also found it (the Udyan) to be suitable.

"There are some Awami League programmes scheduled to be held there. And after the programmes, the BNP will be able to hold its rally," said Asaduzzaman.

Asked about the BNP's remark that the government will "be forced" to allow its rally in Nayapaltan, he said the government has no obligation.

"The government will give permission only for where it is suitable," he added.

Earlier, Senior BNP leader Gayeshwar Chandra Roy had said they will hold the rally at Nayapaltan even if the government doesn't give the permission.

"The rally on 10 December will be held at the venue we have announced. We won't wait for the permission as we'll arrange the rally whether we're given the permission or not," he said.

In a recent press conference, the BNP said the rally is not a movement to unseat the government.

To keep the momentum of its ongoing movement, the BNP on 27 September announced a series of public rallies in 10 divisional cities.

The party has already held eight rallies in Chattogram, Mymensingh, Khulna, Rangpur, Barishal, Faridpur, Sylhet and Cumilla.

It will conclude its movement with its December 10 rally in Dhaka city.

## No dialogue, PM hints

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The prime minister said people did not accept the February 15, 1996, election and dislodged the then government of Khaleda Zia within about one and a half months after the election.

"Khaleda Zia had to step down over allegations of vote rigging," she said.

Hasina said people waged a movement against the vote-rigging, and at that, "the goons of the BNP Jamaat and police" unleashed inhuman torture on the general people, particularly the women. "Even pregnant women and mothers were not spared the torture."

But the women activists of the BNP are now waging a movement by bringing out processions and holding rallies without any interventions from the government, she said.

Referring to arson attacks carried out by the BNP men in 2013-14 in the name of a movement, Hasina alleged that the opposition party's movement is to kill innocent people through arson.

"We have no objection to movements. Bring out processions and hold meetings, but no one would be allowed to get away if they want to kill anyone through arson, grenade or bomb attacks," she warned.

"The people are with the Awami League, they are not with the killers. Ziur

Rahman, Khaleda Zia and Tarique Rahman are the killers."

Khaleda and Tarique, the premier said, have been awarded punishment for committing offences. "So what can they do for the welfare of the people?"

She asked the Mahila League leaders and activists to work for the wellbeing of the country and its people.

Briefly describing various measures taken by the government for overall development of the womenfolk, she said her government has been doing everything possible for the women as she believes no development can take place by keeping women, half of the country's population, in the dark.

Hasina formally opened the council by hoisting the national flag and releasing balloons and pigeons, the symbol of peace.

The fifth and last council of the Mahila AL, which was formed on February 25, 1969, was held on March 4 in 2017.

**NEW COMMITTEE**  
The new central committee of the Mahila Awami League was formed yesterday with Meher Afroze Chumki as its president and Shabnam Jahan Shila as general secretary.

AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader announced the committee at the council session.

Chumki is an AL lawmaker from Gazipur-5 while Shabnam Jahan is an MP from reserved seats for women in parliament.

Shaheda Tareque Dipti and Hasina were elected president and general secretary of the Dhaka North Mahila AL, while Sabera Begum and Parul Akter were elected president and general secretary of the Dhaka South Mahila AL.

## Some farmers' families 'repaid' all money

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"We repaid Tk 10,000 in 2021. But we could not pay the rest. That's why my husband was arrested," said Mahatab's wife Razia Begum.

"But my father-in-law, Goni Mandol, who never took a loan from the bank, was also arrested on the same charge. Someone might have taken loan falsifying documents in the name of my father-in-law," she claimed.

Talking to The Daily Star, local Union Parishad Chairman Abdul Mozid said at least five to six farmers were arrested

despite having repaid their loans.

"The poor farmers live from hand to mouth. The case appears as a double blow for them. We could have solved the issue through negotiation if we were informed earlier," he said.

Contacted, Ishwardi Police Station Officer-in-Charge Arbinda Sarkar said, "The Senior Judicial Magistrate Court of Pabna issued the arrest warrant against 37 farmers on loan default charges. We could arrest 12 of them and the rest of the farmers are on the run."

"We just acted as per the court order. Following arrest, we produced the farmers before the court that sent them to jail," the OC added.

Contacted, Kazi Jasim Uddin, manager of Bangladesh Samabaya Bank Ltd's Pabna branch, said he was not aware of the matter as he had recently joined.

"But I think the bank authorities have filed the case following proper procedure. The bank's legal section is dealing with the issue," he said.

Contacted, the bank's lawyer Abdul Mozid said

each of the 37 farmers of Varoimari village under the banner of 'Varoimari Utopara Vegetable Farmers' Cooperative Association Limited' took loans ranging from Tk 30,000 to 40,000 in 2016.

"It became increasingly difficult for them to repay the loan over time as the interest compounded as a result of their failure to return the borrowed funds. So, we filed the loan default case in 2021," he added.

"All the farmers were served with legal notices before filing of the case," the lawyer added.

## Contribute to development

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receiving treatment there, they might see the development," she said.

The premier said the opposition parties have some people who are blind despite having eyes. "They pretend not to see. They themselves can't do anything. They won't be able to do anything in future. They even can't contribute anything to the country."

Hasina, also the Awami League president, said her party always thinks about modern way to advance the nation, which resulted in having a tunnel under the Karnaphuli.

The PM said construction of the tunnel would brighten the image of the country and expedite its economic activities.

The AL chief said Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Tunnel is the first such tunnel in South Asia.

"Bangladesh is now a changed country and none would be able to stop its ongoing progress and

advancement."

Hasina said that after the inauguration of the tunnel next month, road communication with Cox's Bazar from Dhaka and Chattogram would be very easy and faster.

Besides, country's economy will gain momentum and tourism, economic activities, trade and commerce in the entire Chattogram region will be expanded and strengthened further, she added.

Briefly describing the development works carried out by her government, she said they have significantly reduced poverty in the country.

Referring to the pandemic and Ukraine war, Hasina said the world is suffering from the impacts of those and many countries were in recession. She said Bangladesh is still moving forward with its ability.

To this end, the premier reiterated her call to the people to boost food production and produce whatever they can using

every inch of land.

She again suggested all for exercising austerity in using electricity, water and fuel.

Cabinet Secretary Khandker Anwarul Islam and Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Li Jiming also spoke at the event which AL General Secretary and Road Transport and Bridges Minister Obaidul Quader chaired.

## Accused Abir

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the murder.

Abir said he kidnapped Ayat with the intention of demanding ransom, but at one stage strangled her to death. Later, he cut up the body into six pieces and threw the parts into the sea.

Inspector Elias Khan of the PBI Ctg metro unit told The Daily Star that Abir was able to chalk out the murder plan from watching episodes of the Indian crime anthology TV series Crime Patrol.

## Dollar crisis

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He also said Meherpur is an agricultural area, where various types of crops are grown.

"There is no need to establish industries in all areas of the country. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said that industrial establishments cannot be built by destroying agricultural areas."

## 8 glasses

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and 96 years old, from 23 different countries.

Research involved people drinking a glass of water in which some of the hydrogen molecules were replaced by a stable isotope of the element called deuterium, which is found naturally in the human body and is completely harmless.

The rate of elimination of the extra deuterium reveals how quickly water in the body is turning over.

Those living in hot and humid environments and at high altitudes as well as athletes, pregnant and breastfeeding women need more water as the research showed water turnover is higher among them.

**বাণিজ্যিক ফ্লোর, শো-রুম/ব্যাংক/অফিস ভাড়া হইবে**  
৮. শহীদ সাংবাদিক সেলিনা পারভীন সড়ক, মগবাজার বহুতল ভবনে গুলফেশ প্রজেক্ট ২য় তলায় ৪,২৮০ বর্গফুট শো-রুম/ব্যাংক/রেস্টুরেন্ট (২য় তলায় জন্য স্বতন্ত্র সিঁড়ি), ৫য়, ৬ষ্ঠ, ১১তম ও ১৪তম প্রতি তলায় ৬৬৫৪ বর্গফুট এবং ৪র্থ তলায় ২৯৯৯ বর্গফুট কর্পোরেট অফিস/বাণিজ্যিক ফ্লোর স্পেস ভাড়া হইবে। ২৪ ঘণ্টা স্বশান্ত আনসার নিরাপত্তা বিদ্যুৎ, জেনারেটর, পানি ও অগ্নি নির্বাপক ব্যবস্থা আছে।  
যোগাযোগঃ ০১৭৭১-৪৯৭৬৪৪, ০১৯১৩-৮২০৬৩২, ০১৬১৮১১১৭৮৪