

MUSIC IS MY PASSION, acting an obsession

PARTHA BARUA



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Renowned musician Partha Barua has mesmerised audience with his enticing performances in *Aynabaji* and *Taqdeer*. His latest movie, *Made in Chittagong*, has already created buzz on social media with its peppy romantic track *Pet Furedde*, becoming viral all-over social media.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, Partha Barua talks about his upcoming movie, and more.

Tell us about your film, “Made in Chittagong”.

Made in Chittagong was released in November 18. It was made in the regional language of Chattogram, and was initially released in Chittagong. However, the film will release in Dhaka on December 2, and the makers are planning on releasing the movie in Narayanganj as well.

My hometown is in Chittagong, and while I have acted in numerous TV series and tele-films in *Chattgaiya* language. This is the first time that I am in a film of my own regional language, and thus this project holds a special place in my heart.

How has been the response so far? People are going crazy over World Cup right now, and so everybody is busy watching sports on TV. However, we have got positive responses from Chittagong, as we were able to bring forth the culture and beautiful landscape of the district through this film. The director, Imraul Rafat, has shown a lot of courage by making this movie, it showcases the true reflection of our life and my character has been



From 'Made In Chittagong'.

wonderfully crafted by the makers.

From music to acting, how has been the journey so far?

I love music, but acting is something which really entices me as an artiste. Music is my passion, while acting an obsession. If I didn't enjoy it, I would not have pursued it in the first time. I always try to give my heart and soul to the camera, so the character ends up being unconventional.

How does it feel being appreciated for your performances in web-series?

It feels surreal to be loved by the audiences, and their love is what inspires

me to give my best. I always try to portray my characters with honesty, so that audiences are left satisfied with my acting.

Audiences still remember your brilliant performance in “Aynabaji”.

Ayanabaji has created history with its unique plot and enticing storytelling. Its success has been etched into the hearts of the audiences and fans have showered me with tons of compliments for my role. It feels great to receive appreciation for such a fantastic film.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Afran Nisho's film debut, announcement to come soon

After working in web-films and series, for both OTT platforms and TV, actor Afran Nisho will finally be making his silver screen debut. It is rumoured that the movie has been titled *Shurongo*, and this will be his first movie to release in theatres.

According to sources, the film will be directed by Raihan Rafi, and will see Tama Mirza star opposite Nisho. *Shurongo* will be released in theatres first, but will also be available to watch on OTT in the future.

The news has been confirmed from multiple sources to The Daily Star. However, all concerned parties are still waiting to make any official comments about the film to the media.

Sources have noted that the official announcement for *Shurongo* will be made on December 12. The film will be jointly produced by Alpha-i and Chorki.

The same sources have also suggested that the film will begin shooting from the start of next year, with a release date for either of the two Eids in 2023.

‘Die Hard’ actor Clarence Gilyard dies at 66



Clarence Gilyard Jr, a well-known supporting actor—who has films like *Die Hard* and *Top Gun*; and hit series like *Matlock* and *Walker, Texas Ranger* to his credit—has died at the age of 66.

The actor's death was announced by the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, where he taught stage and screen acting.

Gilyard had a prolific career as an actor, beginning in the 1980's with appearances in *Diff'rent Strokes*, *The Facts of Life* and other shows. He then appeared the decades two biggest action-movies: *Top Gun* and *Die Hard*.

COUNTRYWIDE

A political tool to win votes

An important road that connects two districts remains in sorry state for over 25 years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Thousands of people of 20 villages under Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila and Moulvibazar Sadar upazila have been suffering immensely since an important road that connects the upazilas has not been repaired for the last 25 years.

People living in the area said local lawmakers and public representatives have intentionally kept the issue alive for years to use it as a tool to get votes.

But after winning the election race they forget that promise every time.

Faruq Ahmad, 68, of Dakkhin Daulatpur village said the one-kilometre road, stretching from Aushkandi Bazar of Nabiganj upazila via Amukona Betapur Eidgah to Faridpur of Moulvibazar Sadar upazila, has been lying in an awful state for many years, causing sufferings to the villagers, especially

students and elderly ones.

During the 1996 national election, former minister late Dewan Farid Gazi assured the villagers that the road will be renovated if he is elected, Faruq said.

After getting his assurance, locals got united and voted for him, but the condition of the road remains unchanged.

After the death of lawmaker Farid Gazi, BNP leader Sheikh Sujat Miah, who contested in the 2012 by-election, promised to repair the road if he won the election battle, he said.

But the road was not renovated even though he won that election.

In 2014 national election, Jatiya Party candidate MA Munim Chowdhury Babu promised to do the same repair work if he won.

He conquered the election hurdle, but the scenario remains the same, Faruq added.

Meanwhile, Gazi Shah Nawaz Milad, son of late Dewan Farid

Gazi, who won the race in the 2018 national election, gave the nod to fulfil his father's promise, but did nothing and the important road has not been renovated after all these years.

Mojamil Mia of Daulatpur village said due to the awful condition of the road they have to face serious difficulties while taking any patients to the hospitals.

Auto-rickshaw driver Helal Mia said they do not use the road now as it is no longer suitable for vehicular movement.

Aushkandi Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Dilwar Hossain said there is a fewer chance that the road will be completed by this year as it is not included in the upcoming tender list.

Contacted, Lawmaker Gazi Shahnawaz Milad said the road renovation work will be conducted on a priority basis as it was his election promise.



This one-kilometre road that connects Habiganj's Nabiganj upazila and Moulvibazar Sadar upazila has been lying in awful condition for years.

PHOTO: STAR

8 hurt as pro-AL men swoop on

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chairs and exploded three crude bombs.

Police later fired 11 shots in the air and chased away the attackers to bring the situation under control, witnesses added.

As some local BNP leaders went to the press club with some supporters after about half an hour, police detained a Chhatra Dal activist, triggering a clash with the opposition party men.

Speaking at the rally as the chief guest, BNP standing committee member Abdul Moin Khan said 11 party leaders and activists have been killed in police firing recently.

“We organised the rally protesting the torture of BNP leaders and activists by the government. We were attacked by ruling party men when we came to hold the small rally peacefully,” he said.

Syed Modarres Ali, convener of Faridpur district BNP, said eight BNP men were injured in the attack. “Police detained four party activists from the venue area.”

Sumon Ranjan Sarkar, additional superintendent of police (Sadar circle), said law enforcers tried their best to control the situation.

“We fired 11 shots in the air to bring the situation under control,” he

added.

Saha Md Istiak Arif, general secretary of Faridpur district Awami League, said none from the ruling party, Jubo League and BCL were involved in the attack. “It was an outcome of the BNP's intra-party feud.”

BNP MEN POURING INTO RAJSHAHI CITY

BNP leaders and activists from different districts around Rajshahi started gathering the divisional city yesterday, three days ahead of its December 3 rally at Rajshahi Madrasa Maidan.

The opposition men were reaching the city early as the Rajshahi bus owners' association and workers' union are enforcing an indefinite strike from today morning to press home their 10-point-demand, including removal of three-wheelers from highways.

Some BNP leaders alleged that new cases were being filed at different districts to obstruct party men from joining the rally.

Speaking at a press conference at the party office in the city yesterday, BNP Rajshahi divisional Organising Secretary Ruhul Kuddus Talukdar Dulu alleged that 55 leaders and activists from Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Sirajganj and

Joypurhat were arrested on Tuesday night in “false” cases ahead of the rally.

This was being done to spread panic among the BNP men, he added.

Meanwhile, police yesterday set up some temporary check posts at the entries to Rajshahi city and some other areas.

Police sent many BNP men back from the check posts. Besides, owners of many hotels and community centres refused to provide accommodation to opposition men citing police orders, said Ruhul Kuddus.

Rofiqul Alam, additional deputy commissioner of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police, told this newspaper that they set up at least 17 check posts in and around the city to ensure security.

“All our activities are planned to ensure peace and security of the people,” he said.

In Raiganj upazila of Sirajganj, an AL leader filed a case against 170 BNP men on Tuesday night on charges of hurling Molotov cocktails at a local office of the ruling party.

BNP leaders, however, denied the allegation saying that the case was lodged to harass the party men.

Our correspondents in Rajshahi, Faridpur and Pabna contributed to this report.

Dhaka students outshine

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Dhaka passed the exams against the figures of 79.26, 86.90, and 88.38 percent in Sunamganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur.

Academics and education officials blamed shortage of competent teachers, laboratories, libraries and other facilities for the poorer performance of students outside Dhaka.

Mohammad Tariq Ahsan, professor at the Institute of Education and Research of Dhaka University, said the assessment system in the public exams is based on memorisation.

Students in Dhaka usually can afford coaching, guidebooks and private tuitions, which help them learn and memorise the topics, and that have a positive effect on their results in public exams.

He said the so-called famous

schools create such a situation for students that they become more skilled in memorisation.

“So, additional investment in education plays a role,” said Tariq, also a member of the Curriculum Development and Revision Core Committee (CDRCC).

He pointed out that absence of adequate libraries, laboratories, and quality teachers also plays a role in this regard.

Prof Tapan Kumar Sarker, chief of the Inter-Education Board Coordination Committee, said many bright students from upazila and district towns move to Dhaka for better studies, which is another reason for students from the capital achieving better results.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina after receiving the SSC results from the authorities on Monday asked the

parents to change their mindset that their children must be admitted to a few famous schools in order to have a good education.

She said many eminent personalities studied at district-level schools. “It's easy for the famous schools to show good results as they get the brightest students,” she added.

Chinese astronauts

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module station is known in Chinese. The first mission was launched in April 2021.

The spacecraft docked with the station more than six hours after the launch, and the three Shenzhou-15 astronauts were greeted with warm hugs from the previous Shenzhou crew from whom they were taking over.