



PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

## A LEGACY THAT CARRIES ON

### Senior actors still in the game

#### SHAH ALAM SHAZU

All over the world, the showbiz industry can be seen as one that prefers youth and beauty over age and experience. There are usually fewer roles for veteran actors, which is why, over time, fewer of them stay active in the industry.

In Bangladesh, many senior actors have aged like fine wine, becoming better with time and experience. They have defied the traditional notions of the showbiz industry, and have continued to perform despite their age.

Today, we celebrate some stalwarts of the industry, who are still active even now.

#### Mamunur Rashid

Noted thespian, director, and playwright Mamunur Rashid leads the Aranyak Natyadal—one of Bangladesh's most popular theatre troupes. He has been active in the industry for almost five decades.

Recently, the 200th show of his successful play, *Rarang* was held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. In addition to writing and directing *Rarang*, Mamunur Rashid also acts in the play. So popular was this play, that it has been staged in several countries, receiving widespread praise.

#### Abul Hayat

Noted actor, playwright, and director Abul Hayat has won the hearts of millions with his remarkable performances on radio, television, the silver screen, and the stage. The actor played pivotal roles in the Tauquir Ahmed directorial *Sphulingo*, and the Mir Sabbir directorial *Raat Jaga Phool*, with both films being released in theatres in 2021.

#### Asaduzzaman Noor

Many will forever remember the eminent cultural personality Asaduzzaman Noor, MP as 'Baker Bhai' from *Kothao Keu Nei*. Whichever character he played, he always made them his own.

His performance as a freedom fighter in Humayun Ahmed's film *Aguner Poroshmoni* was quite the tear-jerker for moviegoers. Recently, the actor has signed up to play the role of a *Razakar* in the film *Joy Banglar Dhoni*, directed by K M Khurshid.

#### Dilara Zaman

Ekushey Padak and National Award-winning actress Dilara Zaman began her acting career on the stage in the early 1960's. She soon emerged as one of the most popular faces on television, after her debut in 1966 with the television *Tridhara*. After this, she began making her way into films.

In recent years, Dilara Zaman has been very active on the silver screen. She was last seen in the film *Lal Moroger Jhuti*, directed by Nurul Alam Atique, which was released in 2021. The actress will also play the role of Sheikh Sayera Khatun in the biopic *Mujib: The Making of a Nation*, directed by Shyam

Benegal—which is currently awaiting its release. She is also busy with shooting for television projects.

#### Dolly Zahur

As a National Award-winning Bangladeshi actress and television personality, Dolly Zahur is a household name. She began acting at a very early age and performed in numerous television dramas and films.

The actress gained a lot of popularity by playing the character Nilu, in the drama serial *Eishob Din Ratri* by Humayun Ahmed, sometimes considered her breakthrough performance on television. Dolly Zahur has remained active on the screen in recent years.

Aside from those mentioned here, Khairul Alam Sabuj, Al Mansur, Afroza Banu, Amirul Haque Chowdhury and Rahmat Ali are also industry stalwarts who continued to perform on the screens and stages in recent years.



## Three UNESCO heritage sites of Bangladesh to be highlighted by 'Sisimpur'

#### ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

UNESCO and Sesame Workshop have come together to create a video documentary on three world heritage sites of Bangladesh, namely: The Mosque City of Bagerhat, Sundarbans, and Paharpur's Buddhist monastery.

Today Dr Susan Vize, Officer-in-Charge of UNESCO Dhaka and Mohammad Shah Alam, Country Managing Director of Sesame Workshop signed an agreement concerning this joint initiative.

The goal of both organisations is to provide information and entertainment to children through their beloved *Sisimpur* characters.

Bagerhat and Paharpur Buddhist monastery were enlisted in the UNESCO World Heritage List back in 1995. While, Sundarbans made it into the list just two years later in 1997.

## Deepika Padukone to unveil FIFA World Cup trophy at the finals

Bollywood star Deepika Padukone will be unveiling the FIFA World Cup trophy in Qatar, later this month. This will make Deepika the only actress to have unveiled a FIFA World Cup trophy in history.

The actress will be traveling to Qatar on December 18—the day of the final—to the Lusail Iconic Stadium in Qatar. Deepika will arrive before the start of the final and unveil the trophy for the world to see.

All of this comes just a few months after Deepika represented India as a jury member at the Cannes Film Festival.

The "Om Shanti Om" actress continues to make her country proud, breaking down barriers both locally and internationally.



# NEWS

## 15 foreign missions lay importance

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Declaration of Human Rights.

The signatories to the joint statement are the missions of: Australia, the UK, Canada, Denmark, the EU, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the US.

The joint statement comes ahead of Human Rights Day on December 10, a day when the opposition political party BNP is likely to hold a rally in Dhaka though the venue is yet to be decided.

The authorities are providing venue options, but BNP wants to hold the rally at Nayapaltan, where its headquarters is located, or Arambagh.

In recent times, foreign diplomats have spoken in public about a free, fair

and participatory national election that is due to be held late next year or early 2024.

The ruling Awami League and opposition political parties are already holding rallies across the country, well ahead of the polls.

"We support and promote democratic governance as a set of values and principles to follow for meaningful participation, equality, security, and inclusive human and economic development," said the statement, issued yesterday.

"We, as friends and partners of Bangladesh, are eager to further support its success, reaffirm the importance of free, fair, inclusive, and peaceful electoral processes in the spirit of the Universal Declaration of

Human Rights."

#### UK TRAVEL ADVISORY

Meanwhile, the UK has issued a travel advisory for British nationals visiting Bangladesh.

Political rallies are expected on December 10 in Dhaka, with potential disruption to transport, communication networks and movement around the city.

"An increased law enforcement presence in the days surrounding 10 December 2022 is likely. You are advised to avoid all large gatherings, including political rallies," said the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.

Up to 150,000 British nationals visit Bangladesh every year, according to the FCDO. Most visits are trouble-free.

## 33 BNP men face arrest warrants

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Alal; BNP leader Mirza Abbas' wife Afroza Abbas; and BNP Organising Secretary Shama Obayed, now on bail, were present at the hearing.

Meanwhile, the High Court yesterday granted six weeks' anticipatory bail to 438 BNP leaders and activists from 12 districts in 27 cases filed on various charges.

The cases were filed in Dhaka, Narayanganj, Jamalpur, Meherpur, Gazipur, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Tangail, Bogura, Pabna, Barishal and Netrakona.

The charges ranged from vandalism to obstructing police from discharging duties during the party's ongoing divisional rallies.

Two separate HC benches granted

the anticipatory bail after hearing 29 separate bail petitions filed by the accused. One of the benches was of Justice Jahangir Hossain Selim and Justice Md Bashir Ullah, while the other was of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam.

The benches also asked the accused to surrender before the lower courts concerned in six weeks, Kayser Kamal, lawyer for the accused petitioners, told The Daily Star.

He said the cases were filed against the BNP men on false charges in order to harass them.

#### COUNTRYWIDE DRIVES

#### CONTINUE

On December 1, police started a 15-day special drive across the country "to ward off any untoward incident

ahead of the Victory Day".

BNP leaders have been alleging that the drive is to arrest its leaders and activists to thwart its December 10 rally in Dhaka.

Several thousand people, including many BNP men, have already been arrested in the drive.

The media and public relations centre of the Police Headquarters, which has been providing information about the number of arrests and cases to the media, could not provide any information about how many people were picked up in the 24 hours till 6:00pm yesterday when this report was filed.

A media and PR officer around 8:30pm said they were yet to receive the information in this regard.

## Need leadership that can change

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from their posts over various allegations, including extortion from development projects.

There were allegations against Joy and Lekhak of giving posts and announcing committees in exchange for money, and the two living a lavish life.

The two also allegedly didn't hold a single bi-monthly meeting of the central BCL committee, failed to form committees in at least 67 out of its 116 district units within the stipulated one-year period and also expanded the central committee beyond its limit.

The two leaders, however, denied the allegations.

Speaking at a press conference at Dhaka University's Madhur Canteen late last month, they claimed that

the allegations were baseless and incorrect.

Ikhtiar Uddin, deputy finance affairs secretary of BCL, yesterday said they were hopeful that those who were popular among students for their work, and would work for the AL in the next parliamentary polls would be picked as new leaders.

Yesterday, thousands of BCL men joined the organisation's 30th national council.

"The national council is taking place after nearly four and a half years. It feels great being able to join the council in a festive atmosphere. I am really pleased that I will be able to see the prime minister after a while," said Sohel Rana, general secretary of Pabna's Atgharia upazila BCL.

He, however, expressed dissatisfaction over accommodating

hundreds of leaders in the BCL central committee through issuing letters. "Posts have been given to leaders through issuing letters before the council. It seems to me that those who don't even have the qualifications to be a leader of a ward unit Chhatra League are also getting posts in the central committee."

Ayesha Ferdousi, an activist of Eden Mohila College Chhatra League, said, "For us, the council is a like a festival as new leadership is going to be chosen through this. I hope capable leaders will be at the helm of Chhatra League."

As many as 30 BCL councils have been held in the last 74 years since its inception in 1948. Only nine of those were held in the last 34 years although the organisation's constitution stipulates that the council should be held every two years.

which we stand corrected.

However, we want to point out that the story concerned deserves a thorough investigation by all relevant state machinery. The High Court has already ordered, suo moto, a probe into financial scams in three banks namely Islami Bank, Social Islami Bank and First Security Islami Bank. It has also asked S Alam Group to submit a report with all relevant papers concerning its loans from Islami Bank. The Bangladesh Bank has also launched its own investigation.

#### Our reply

Normally, we publish rejoinder 48 hours after issuance to allow time to further authenticate the story with our sources. In this case, we are publishing it immediately as a mark of respect for the PMO. The information used in our story was verified by multiple sources at different levels both in Dhaka and Chattogram. However, as a formal rejoinder came from the PMO, we take serious note of it, especially and only the portions that refer to the principal secretary and DC Chattogram, for

## PMO's rejoinder

#### FROM PAGE 1

to his subordinates in this connection.

Even after that your newspaper carried such false news which is very alarming and ill-motivated.

It seems the news was prepared based on perceptions and statements of the so called sources intentionally.

We strongly protest publication of such news in your newspaper.

We hope The Daily Star will use authentic and credible information while publishing any news in future."