

# 'I spoke to Amitabh Bachchan in Bangla'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Chanchal Chowdhury made the country proud when he represented Bangladesh in the Kolkata International Film Festival, sharing the stage with superstars like Amitabh Bachchan, Shah Rukh Khan and Shatrughan Sinha. The Daily Star talked to Chanchal over the phone on his achievement.

**How did it feel to share the stage with Amitabh and Shah Rukh?**

At this point, it feels surreal. What's more surreal to me is the love that I received from people after those photos were published. My film 'Hawa' is in the Kolkata International Film Festival as well, which only adds to my elation.

**You were the only Bangladeshi actor who stood beside these legends.**

**What did you talk about?**

Even though there were a lot of protocols since huge stars and West Bengal CM Mamata Banerjee were present, I did get to talk to both SRK and Amitabh.

I talked to Amitabh Bachchan in Bangla, and told him about my film 'Hawa', to which he smiled and expressed his approval. He replied in Bangla!

When Shah Rukh entered, there was a lot of security but I was able to get introduced to him and take a selfie.

**Did you know that you were going to be on stage with them?**

Not at all. The organisers knew that my father was sick, and I might not even

as a representative from Bangladesh, she said that she knew who I was, and that 'Hawa' was doing very well there. It was a proud moment for me! What



make it to the event. The committee's head was Raj Chakraborty, who called me to stage with the legends.

**Could you talk to Mamata Banerjee?**

I did. As I was introduced to her

more can an artiste ask for?

**Could you go and watch 'Hawa' at theatres there?**

I went yesterday. Two ministers have watched the film in Nandan, and had invited me there. 9 halls in Nandan are already filled to the brim, and I hope the people in Kolkata keep giving it the love that it deserves.



PHOTOS: COLLECTED



## Dighi and Yash pair up for new web film

Prarthana Fardin Dighi made headlines when she wrote about being a 'victim' of film 'syndicate' on her Facebook account, and shared how she was being replaced in projects by the directors.

Now, amidst all the chaos, she signed up for her second web film "Fera", directed by Sumon Dhar on Thursday. In this web film, she will be acting opposite actor Yash Rohan. The duo previously paired up in another web film "Shesh Chithi", released in Chorki.

The entire crew of the project "Fera", including the director, is the same as the web film "Shesh Chithi".

## Bigg Boss is now India's most popular show

According to this week's research by Ormax Media, "Bigg Boss" is at the top of the TRP list and now ranks among the top 3 Hindi TV shows in terms of viewer engagement from 3 to 9 December.

This report claims that viewers chose to watch the programme more on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday since Salman Khan is so well-liked in "Bigg Boss weekend Ka Vaar."

Salman Khan has worked as the face of Bigg Boss for 13 years, helping it become the most watched TV reality show in India.



# NEWS

## With dreams departed, they come home dead

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are young or middle-aged. The causes of death also include heart disease, accidents at the workplace, road crashes, suicides, and murders.

However, no investigation has been done into the cause of deaths of young or middle-aged workers.

Migrant workers, family members of the dead, and experts say the temperature in the Gulf countries is too high for Bangladeshi migrants.

Unskilled or low-skilled workers are often involved in risky, difficult, and laborious jobs in the scorching heat. Apart from the unforgiving heat, work hours reaching 12 to 18 hours, poor living conditions, separation from families, and mental stress cause strokes and heart attacks, they added.

Supreme Court lawyer Jyotirmoy Barua said, "Nothing is more important than human life. There should be investigations into the cause of deaths of young and middle-aged migrants."

"It is a legal obligation for a country to conduct autopsies of all unnatural deaths. The government can engage the ILO and World Health Organization to ensure the protection of workers in those countries."

**WHY SO MANY DEATHS**  
Of the 307 workers whose bodies arrived in December 2019, 176 (56 percent) died of strokes and most of them were young or middle-aged. Sixty-two died because of heart diseases or natural causes while 57 died in workplace accidents, and 12 in road crashes. Three died by suicide and the remaining two were killed. The situation was similar during most of the months in the last 14 years.

Prof Masoom Siraj, was a doctor in the cardiology department at Prince Sultan Cardiac Center in Saudi Arabia for a long time, said the temperature was too hot in the Gulf countries.

"In that hostile environment, migrants work for 12-18 hours a day, which is inhumane," he said.

"Their living conditions are also very poor and they remain under constant stress. These could be the possible reasons for strokes," said Siraj, who is now the head of the department of cardiac surgery at Ibrahim Cardiac Hospital and Research Institute in Dhaka.

Echoing a similar view, Dr Arifur Rahman, who lived a long time in Saudi Arabia and is associated with

the overseas recruitment business, said migrant workers in the Middle East mostly eat oily food.

Long work hours, oppression of the employers, constant pressure to send money home, and a monotonous life cause severe stress to the workers, he added.

Family members said the untimely deaths of loved ones put them in utter distress. Some families slide into poverty after the death of their breadwinners.

Azhar Ali Sardar, a 22-year-old man

According to various international media reports, 6,650 migrant workers from India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Bangladesh died in Qatar from 2011 to 2020 while engaged in the massive development work for the World Cup.

The number of Bangladeshi workers among them is 1,018.

The Bureau of Manpower, Employment, and Training (BMET) have been collecting data on Bangladeshi migrants in Qatar since 1976, the year when 1,121 migrants went to the country.

The number increased gradually but was limited to 10,000 to 12,000 per year until 2011. In 2015 and 2016, over 2.40 lakh migrants flew to Qatar as the Gulf country recruited workers for the construction of the World Cup stadiums and other development projects. The number was 11,158 last year.

**SUICIDE BY WOMEN WORKERS ON THE RISE**

Saudi Arabia started taking large numbers of women workers from Bangladesh in 2015.

A large number of them returned dead.

From 2016 to 2021, nearly 600 corpses of women arrived in Dhaka. Suicide has been a significant cause of death besides stroke, heart disease, and accidents.

Hajera Begum from Narsingdi went to Saudi Arabia and died by suicide just 14 days after reaching there.

Her sister Nadira said she could not believe that a strong woman like Hajera could die by suicide. She alleged that her sister was tortured to death.

Kamaluddin Ahmed Chowdhury, a professor of clinical psychology at Dhaka University, said, "What we see in Saudi Arabia is that most women are oppressed or they face such situations that force them to consider suicide as the only way out."

CR Abrar, the executive director of RMMRU, said, "We need to find out the reasons for so many migrants' death."

He believes that the number of deaths could be reduced if the causes were known.

Abrar said there should be more bilateral and multilateral discussions to improve the working conditions abroad. At the same time, the migrant-receiving countries will have to be more responsible, he added.

## Vested quarters

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biggest strength."

Hasina said as the AL has been in power for 14 years and the democratic process continues in the country, Bangladesh has achieved tremendous development and is acclaimed as a role model of development in the world.

She mentioned that all powers were in the cantonment during the regimes of Ziaur Rahman, HM Ershad and Khaleda Zia.

"The country was ruled from the cantonment, then where was the democracy or power of the people," she questioned.

The PM said the country has been able to advance massively as the government is running it with the spirit of the Liberation War.

## A final about more than two standouts

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point and they were scintillating in their Round of 16 win over Poland.

But Les Bleus, struggling with injuries even before the tournament started, had to dig in to get past a plucky England side before just getting the better of a highly impressive Morocco in the semis. One man who stood out through these ups and downs was Mbappe, now the leading scorer with five goals along with two assists in the tournament.

The times he failed to find a way through, others stepped up and bailed the team out.

Messi, too, has played a similar role on the pitch to that of Mbappe by scoring five goals and providing three assists, but he also had to lead with his strength and determination to dig out the Albiceleste from a hole they had dug for themselves after the Saudi Arabia defeat in their tournament opener.

Arsenal's legendary coach Arsene Wenger, currently FIFA Development chief, had to weigh in on this debate ahead of the final. "The boss of the orchestra is Messi and the music starts when he has the ball," the 73-year-old told reporters while saying that he felt collectively France are in a more favourite position.

The discussion among outsiders may be focused on Messi and Mbappe, but for tacticians like Lionel Scaloni, who has guided Argentina to a new high after winning the Copa America

## Malaysia landslide death toll rises to 23

AFP, Batang Kali

Rescue workers scoured muddy terrain for survivors and bodies on Saturday as the death toll from a landslide at a Malaysian campsite rose to 23, including six children, authorities said.

Ten people were still missing after a pre-dawn landslide hit the site located at an organic farm near the town of Batang Kali just outside the capital Kuala Lumpur on Friday.

Selangor state fire and rescue director Norazam Khamis said the chances of finding survivors in the mud and debris a day after the disaster were "slim."

Officials said there had been more than 90 people, most of them asleep, at the campsite near a mountain casino resort when the landslide struck.

Authorities said 61 people had been found safe or rescued.

Two of the victims were "believed to be a mother and her child in a state of embrace buried under the earth", Norazam told reporters on Friday.

The farm did not have a licence to run a campsite and its operators would be punished if they were found to have broken the law, authorities said.

### MIGRANTS' DEATH IN THE GULF

YEAR	DEATHS
2008	2,098
2009	2,315
2010	2,560
2011	2,585
2012	2,878
2013	3,076
2014	3,335
2015	3,307
2016	3,478
2017	3,385
2018	3,811
2019	4,034
2020	3,019
2021	3,675
2022 (As of June)	1,745

SOURCE: MINISTRY OF EXPATRIATE WELFARE AND OVERSEAS EMPLOYMENT, WAGES EARNERS WELFARE BOARD AND THREE AIRPORTS IN DHAKA, CHATTOGRAM AND SYLHET

from Pabna, died of a stroke in Saudi Arabia. His father, Nazmul Hossain, found it hard to believe that a stroke was the cause of his son's death.

"Why would a 22-year-old have a stroke?" Nazmul asked.

A heart-rending scene unfolds at Shahjalal airport whenever families come to receive the bodies of their loved ones. Family members wait under the scorching sun or amid rain to receive the bodies. There are no seating arrangements for them.

Contacted, Fakhru Islam, assistant director of the Expatriates' Welfare Desk at the airport said the families of the deceased get Tk 35,000 for burial from the Wage Earners' Welfare Board of the expatriates' welfare ministry.

The families also get another Tk 3 lakh from the board, he added.

**SILENCE ABOUT OTHER GULF COUNTRIES**

virus, despite the fatigue. We must finish the job," Lloris said.

France and Argentina have produced some memorable encounters over the years, not least the thrilling 4-3 win for France in Round of 16 four years ago. Finals are often cagey affairs and goals are hard to come by but if Sunday's final is anything close to that thriller in Kazan, it will be a grandstand finish to the Qatar World Cup, which has witnessed so many memorable performances from both Messi and Mbappe and beyond.

"Let's hope that if it's Leo's (Messi) last game, that we can win the title. It would be great and the important thing is to enjoy it... What better scenario than in a World Cup final?"

While Argentina have the prospect of ending a 36-year wait, France can become the first side since Brazil in 1962 to retain the World Cup.

"It's the same objective for the two teams. One of the two will have a third star on their shirt after tomorrow's game," France coach Didier Deschamps said in his pre-match talk.

Despite having a number of players out injured since before the World Cup and during it, France have ploughed their way through but they find themselves in more trouble with a virus sweeping through the camp ahead of the final.

But captain Hugo Lloris was determined to end the tournament, and maybe his international career, on a high. "We have to be ready to surpass ourselves, to make the effort despite the circumstances with the

Youssef En-Nesyri came close when he headed over in stoppage time but despite Morocco's best efforts to find an equaliser, Croatia held on for victory and the bronze, matching the feat of their heroes from 1998 who also finished third.

## Modric's Croatia seal third place

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The second half was not as fast or feisty as the first as exhaustion after a long tournament seemed to have caught up with both teams, playing their seventh game in Qatar.

Croatia also felt hard done by when Gvardiol looked to have been tripped in the box by Sofyan Amrabat - now playing in defence with their centre backs injured - but the referee refused to award a penalty.