

DINAR always delivers

SHARMIN JOYA

Intekhab Dinar has been able to redefine his career when upon stepping into the revolution that was Bangladeshi OTT – coming up with one after another tremendous performances in this medium. Two of the projects featuring Dinar, released yesterday in two popular OTT platforms—Chorki and Hoichoi. One is the much-anticipated part 2 of the Syed Ahmed Shawki directorial *Karagar*, and the latter is Chorki original, *Café Desire* directed by Robiul Alam Robi.

"I can't really tell if it is fortunate or not, the fact that two of my projects are releasing on the same day," laughs the actor. Arguably, *Karagar* was one of the most appreciated web series this year. Dinar donned the role of jailer Mostaque Ahmed, a character which came alive on screen because of the actor's efforts. When asked if he were given a choice, is there any other role he would pick up from the show, "I was actually given a choice, and without giving a second thought, I chose this role," asserts Dinar.

"I am overwhelmed with all the love and appreciation I have received after working in this project, I would definitely like to share the credit with the director Shawki and my co-artists," he further said.

The series also marks the OTT debut of the noted actress Bijori Barkatullah, who played the actor's wife in the project. The real life couple had a great onscreen chemistry, where they were seen facing a major crisis in their life, in the previous part of the show. "I am a fan of Bijori's work," he shares, "Interestingly the more she is serious and dedicated about her work, the more careless I am. As a co-artist she is amazing, and extremely cooperative. She helped me improve my performance, to be honest."

According to the actor, the second part of *Karagar* is all about unfolding the truth, and answering the questions that the audience had in part one.

Dinar was also lauded for his performance in *Café Desire*. "I will always be grateful to Robi, as his project 'Dwikhondito' is the turning point project in my career," says the actor. According to Dinar, *Café Desire* is an anthology film, consisting 5 different stories, with a multiple casting. He shares the screen with Abul Kalam Azad and Aisha Khan.

Dinar is currently working in Enamul Karim Nirjhor's upcoming film, he also completed Siddiq Ahamed's project for Binge, and will also start working in Animesh Aich's web series soon.



Pathaan's second song: SRK dances into your heart with 'Jhoom Jo Pathaan'

The 'King of Bollywood' Shah Rukh Khan released *Pathaan's* second song, *Jhoom Jo Pathaan*, after being subject to numerous complaints and controversies with their first song, *Besharam Rang*.

The peppy and upbeat track features Shah Rukh Khan paying an ode to the titular character, *Pathaan*, at the picturesque European locations. SRK stole the hearts of fans by dancing on-screen for the first time in over four years.

Pathaan starring Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham will hit theatres on January 25, 2023.

Dipjol to entertain fans in Kolkata

Dhallywood's popular 'antagonist', Monowar Hossain Dipjol, is set to entertain his fans in Kolkata with a performance in Murshidabad. The actor announced the news on his official Facebook page on Wednesday.

"I am coming to Murshidabad, Kolkata on December 23. I can't wait to see all my lovely Indian fans there," read the post.

The programme titled *Mega Musical Dhamaka* will also see performances by other Bangladeshi singers including F A Sumon and Sharmin Dipu. The event will also showcase Indian artistes including actress Sayantika Banerjee, Rooqma Ray, Mir Afsar Ali and Bandage, among others.



NEWS

2 members of new militant outfit arrested Pay for pets!

FROM PAGE 12
other accomplices.

Separatist group KNF members and the militant group's local associates trained 12 of them for a month. They were given training on firearms, said the CTTC official.

During preliminary interrogation, the arrestees said one Shamim Mahfuz was their main leader and all activities of the camp were conducted according to his plan, said Asaduzzaman.

The law enforcers learnt about the militant group after seven youths from Cumilla left their homes to go to "Hijrat".

They arrested several dozen members of the outfit, and in October, they carried out drives in CHT where the outfit members had been receiving training.

There were around 52 members in the group, said Asaduzzaman.

Due to the crackdown, the outfit members split up into groups. Some went deep into the forest, while some moved to the plain land, said CTTC officials.

The two arrestees later got separated from their groups and reached plain land after walking through the forest for a month.

Meanwhile, Jamaat e Islami Ameer Mohammad Shafiqur Rahman, who was arrested for his alleged links with the outfit, knew that his son got involved in militancy, but remained silent, said Asaduzzaman.

He was arrested on December 13 in connection with a case filed with Jatrabari Police Station under the

Anti-Terrorism Act on November 2.

On November 9, the Jamaat leader's son Rafat Chowdhury was arrested in Sylhet in the same case.

Rafat was the Sylhet regional coordinator of Al-Qaeda-inspired militant outfit Ansar Al Islam and motivating young people to leave their homes for so-called jihad, according to police.

"The Jamaat ameer admitted that he knew his son was involved [in militancy] ... He did not inform the law enforcement agency of the matter," Asaduzzaman said in reply to a query from journalists.

CTTC is now interrogating Shafiqur, who was placed on a fresh three-day remand on Wednesday.

"We will inform you if we find anything," Asaduzzaman added.

FROM PAGE 12
animal – Tk 500 for a dog, and Tk 1,000 each for a deer or a horse. The owners will also have to pay 15 percent VAT. The DSCC requested pet owners to pay their taxes to the revenue department of the respective zones.

According to the statistics of the DSCC veterinary department, there are 128 registered pet dogs, 145 pet deer and 46 pet horses in the capital.

So far, owners of two dogs, 13 deer and nine horses have paid this tax.

Shahrin Arfa, a pet owner, said, "I am a student with two pet dogs. I manage food for them with the money I get for my tiffin. I even give some of that food to the stray dogs near my home. If I have to pay this tax, how will I afford the food for them? It's shameful that the government has imposed this tax."

Monowar Akhter Munia manages food, medication and treatment for her pets – 17 cats and a dog – with her hard-earned money.

"I shelter a dog in my house as its physical condition would not allow it to survive outside. But such a move [imposing tax on pets] will discourage others like me, who just want to help the animals."

"Showing love and care for animals is a humanitarian work and many, including me, do it with their small earnings."

"Most Bangladeshis are still insensitive when it comes to taking care of animals. You might find maybe 10 percent of the population who actually care. Making these people pay

tax for animals will only discourage others from caring for animals as well."

She added that the animals will ultimately be the ones to suffer.

Afzal Khan, widely known as Robin Hood – The Animal Rescuer, said, "They are many ways for the government to levy taxes. This one [on animals] just should not have been imposed."

"Animals are a part of our society; every kind of animal is necessary for society to thrive. However, it is not possible for everyone to feed animals or keep them at home. If the government imposes a tax without providing proper support to animal lovers, it will be shameful."

Nadia Choudhury, who has worked extensively for animal rights, said they can see this move in two ways regarding the tax on dogs.

"Imposing this tax may reduce the import of foreign breed dogs or the commercial use of animals."

She, however, said the DSCC's definition of pet animals is not clear.

According to a study, it was found that 40 percent of Bangladeshi people keep their community dogs as pets.

"Thus, many 'pets' live outside the house," she said.

Regarding the tax on horses and deer, however, she said that according to the Wildlife Act 2012 and Animal Welfare Act 2019, a deer or horse cannot be confined.

"Many from the wealthy society keep such animals in their homes after obtaining licences. However, imposing this tax will validate the confinement

of these animals, which will go against the acts."

Nadia further said, "Many people keep dogs and cats in their homes as [mental health] support systems. We need to think whether it is reasonable to suddenly impose this tax on them."

Tia Chowdhury, founder of Animal Rescuers Bangladesh, said, "I work for rescued dogs that are in critical condition. I can't keep many of them in the shelter and have to keep them with me at home for extra care. I need funding for their treatment and, ultimately, their survival and those funds are rare."

"If I have to now pay taxes for all those in my home, it will be impossible for me to keep doing the work I do. While I don't think it will be possible to follow through with this tax imposition, if they do [impose this tax], I will take them to court if need be. It is an outrageous decision with regard to strays and injured dogs."

Contacted, Shahjahan Ali, DSCC deputy chief revenue officer, said, "We have decided to impose the tax as per the Model Tax Schedule 2016. Though the circular was once already issued in 2016, it was not implemented."

"We are now issuing letters to owners of animals [horses, deer and dogs] in this regard."

He added that the corporation has five veterinary officers who will provide vet services to the pet owners. However, he could not confirm whether the services would be given free of cost.

"We have not finalised this yet."

Cold War redux in Dhaka?

FROM PAGE 12

and internal policy to serve their own national interests instead of following the lead of external powers, take a similar approach."

The statement went on to quote the UN's 1965 Declaration of the Inadmissibility of Intervention in the Domestic Affairs of States and the Protection of their Independence and Sovereignty, which says, "No State has the right to intervene, directly or indirectly, for any reason whatever, in the internal or external affairs of any other state."

The following day, the US embassy

posted a news article about Russia's statement, with a caption that read: "Does this apply to Ukraine? #StandwithUkraine."

The same day, the Russian embassy tweeted a cartoon with the caption: "The current state of affairs."

The cartoon depicts birds sitting on different rungs on a pole, with national flags beside them. On the top is a solitary bird next to a US flag, then two birds next to a UK flag, followed by birds next to the EU flag, with four birds on the bottom next to a flag of Ukraine.

Nasa formally

FROM PAGE 12

three-legged stationary probe last communicated with Earth on December 15.

InSight landed on Mars in late November 2018 with instruments designed to detect planetary seismic rumblings never before measured anywhere but Earth, and its original two-year mission was later extended to four.

From its perch in a vast and relatively flat plain called Elysium Planitia just north of the planet's equator, the lander has helped scientists gain new understanding of Mars' internal structure.

Environment accounting in the works

FROM PAGE 12

primary statistics by July next year," Saber Hossain Chowdhury, a ruling Awami League MP and chief of the parliamentary watchdog, told The Daily Star as he emerged from the meeting at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan.

Meanwhile, at the meeting yesterday, the department of environment (DoE) placed a list of 166 hotels, motels and resorts that were built illegally at Saint Martin Island, which was declared an Ecologically Critical Area (ECA) in 1999.

The parliamentary watchdog was surprised to know that some of the hotels and motels were established in 2005 but no one from the

government's respective departments and the ministry itself bothered to take action against the illegal structures on an ECA.

Besides, neither of the 166 hotels and motels took the environmental clearance certificate, DoE officials present at the meeting said.

The parliamentary body has asked the ministry to serve show cause notice to the officials of the respective department over their inaction on the matter, Chowdhury said.

The ministry has been asked to place detailed identities of the owners of the hotels and motels to identify who is behind the structures and take action

against them.

"Mere fines to the owners of those hotels and motels are not enough. We have asked the authorities concerned to send them to jail as per the law," Chowdhury said.

The parliamentary body also asked the ministry to take measures against any illegal transfer, promotion posting and recruitment through nepotism, bribe or political influences.

Environment Minister Shahab Uddin, Deputy Minister Habibun Nahar, lawmakers Nazim Uddin Ahmed and Khodeja Nasreen Akhtar Hossain attended the meeting among others.

Take action

FROM PAGE 12

Kaliakoir upazila, has been behind bars for the past three weeks in a case filed by ruling AL men under the Explosive Substances Act.

Azam's mother died on December 18 due to old-age complications.

Around 9:00am on December 20, he was released on parole for three hours to attend the janaza, which was held on a field adjacent to his Pabriachala village home. But he was bound by cuffs and fetters during the entire period.

A photo of the incident went viral on social media and drew widespread criticism.

US aid for Ukraine

FROM PAGE 12

Blinken also announced the United States would provide another \$1.85 billion in military aid for Ukraine including the highly advanced Patriot air defence system to help it ward off barrages of Russian missiles.

Meanwhile, Kremlin said yesterday that supplies of US Patriot missile systems to Ukraine would not help settle the conflict or prevent Russia from achieving its goals.

In a call with reporters, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said that there had been no signs of readiness for peace talks during Zelensky's visit, proving that the United States

was fighting a proxy war with Russia "to the last Ukrainian".

White House National Security Council spokesman John Kirby said Washington was seeing no sign that Russian President Vladimir Putin was willing to engage in peacemaking.

UNSC adopts

FROM PAGE 12

vetoes following amendments to the wording. India also abstained.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken said the resolution sent a "strong message" from the world that the junta "must end its violence across the country" and free prisoners.