



JISAN makes a mark

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ANTARA RAISA

Mir Naufel Ashrafi Jisan started acting in Bagerhat Theatre, when he was just a little boy. After studying in the department of Drama and Dramatics at Jahangirnagar University, he made his acting debut with the film *Moner Manush*, directed by Goutam Ghose in 2010.

Recently, he stole the limelight in the web series *Karagar*, with his brilliant performance as Raju. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the talented actor shared his experience working in *Karagar* and recent ventures.

Your character Raju in “Karagar” received immense appreciation from the audience. How are you feeling?

I am feeling very happy as people loved this character. The character Raju was one of the vital characters of *Karagar* Part 2. I am happy that it could contribute to the plot of



the series.

How did you prepare for the character Raju?

The preparation started 3 months prior to the shooting, when I was working on the series, *Light Camera Objection* by Film Noir.

On that shooting set, I met Syed Ahmed Shawki, and he chose me for the role.

The moment I heard about the character from Shawki, I started to internalise the character in me. I was mentally occupied with the character before the shooting. All the brief of this character came from Shawki bhai because he liked the character very much. I just portrayed the imagination of Shawki bhai in this character.

How was your shooting experience with Chanchal Chowdhury?

I worked with Chanchal Chowdhury in the film *Moner Manush*. This was my first time working with him. He was always like a big brother to me. The best thing about him is that he didn't

only think about his part only. He always guided me in the scenes with him, so that I can do better. Overall, the shooting experience was very good, as the full team of Film Noir gave their best. When you see that everyone on the team is trying their best, it makes you work even harder.

What type of stories do you want to work on in the future?

I specifically do not have any preference. If any director thinks that I can do a certain character, I will do it. However, I want to explore the characters that I have never worked on before.

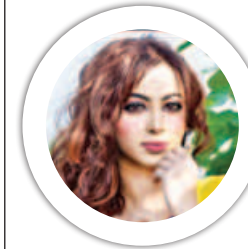
Where do you want to see yourself in the next five years?

I do not have any plans other than doing what I love and that is acting. I want to live with acting.

What are your recent ventures?

Right now, I am shooting for a project of Chorki, titled *Overtrump*, where I am playing the character of a police officer. I am also working on a government-granted film, *Gangkumari*.

Zahara Mitu to play cricketer in upcoming film



Dhallywood actress Zahara Mitu is all set to play a cricketer in Mohammed Tareq Hasan's cricket-oriented film *Jersey Number 16*. The actress will be seen opposite Abu Hurayra Tanvir in the movie.

The film centers around the bonding of a father and daughter duo. The film dwells on a young girl, born in a remote village, who aspires to become a cricketer. Her father has to struggle a lot to make her dream of becoming a cricketer come true.

Jersey Number 16 is slated to be released in the OTT platform, Deepto Play. Currently, the actress is awaiting to release the release of her film *Agun*, opposite Shakib Khan.

‘Pathaan’ going strong as tickets keep selling out



Shah Rukh Khan's *Pathaan* is mired in controversy around its first song *Besharam Rang*, the makers can finally see a silver lining as the advance ticket of the film has become sold out in Germany.

According to Germany multiple X

website, *Pathaan* shows for Wednesday, January 25, 2023 are almost full in 7 theatres in Berlin, Essen, Dantorf, Harburg, Hannover, Munich and Offenbach.

The advance booking of the film in India is expected to begin in the first half of January.

The Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone starrer will release in theatres on January 25, 2023.

NEWS

Govt mulling lifting GP's SIM sales ban

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of service. It does not set any performance improvement criteria either on how to get the ban lifted.

For the country's leading mobile operator, the move was baffling given that its own drive tests were showing it was maintaining all quality-of-service (QoS) key performance indicators as per the threshold set by the Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission by a good margin.

The QoS metrics include call drop rate, call setup time, call setup success rate, call clarity, service coverage area, and internet download and upload speed.

In May, its call drop rate was 0.55 percent, well below the BTRC threshold of 2 percent, shows results from the regulator's most recent drive test.

Yet, so severe seems the discontent that the posts and telecommunication division on October 18 fired off a show-cause notice to BTRC over its decision a month earlier to allow

Grameenphone to recycle its 13 lakh dormant SIM cards.

BTRC had to walk back on that decision on November 6, leaving the public, the operator and experts confounded.

But on that day, at the launch event of the regulator's state-of-the-art benchmarking system held at the BTRC office in Dhaka, a picture emerged of why the SIM sales ban was imposed.

"On the day of Padma bridge inauguration, Grameenphone's network was not good there — the prime minister saw it. The cabinet secretary then called our secretary (posts and telecommunications division) and expressed his displeasure," said BTRC Chairman Shyam Sunder Sikder at the event.

Going by that reasoning, the SIM ban seemed arbitrary, unlawful and rather motivated, found an investigation by The Daily Star.

"We have taken a report of the last six months and we have found that they have made adequate

improvement. If they continue their improvement, this will benefit both customers and Grameenphone," Jabbar said yesterday.

In a letter to the posts and telecom division, Grameenphone CEO Yasir Azman said the operator plans on rolling out 889 2G new sites by December 2022 in deep rural and border sites as well as in Dhaka city.

It would expand fiberisation by 88 percent to 6,811 kilometres and increase fibre connectivity sites by 34 percent.

For faster internet speed, the operator will add high capacity radio to enhance the transmission facility of the existing base stations and deploy more spectrum.

Grameenphone has completed the steps, as a result of which its call drop ratio has dropped to 0.3 percent and the average internet speed all over Bangladesh stands at 11Mbps, said a top official of the operator on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the issue.

Several killed, hurt

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bombing outside their mission in September in another attack claimed by the group.

Hundreds of people, including members of Afghanistan's minority communities, have been killed and wounded in other attacks since the Taliban regained power.

7 suffer bullet

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Rezaul Karim, Joranganj union parishad chairman and the union unit AL general secretary, was one of the key organisers of the fair.

Quoting locals, police said around 4:30am, a few hours after the fair ended, supporters of Rezaul clashed with those of Mainuddin Titu, joint secretary of the union unit AL.

The clash left 11 Jubo League and Chhatra League men injured.

They are Joranganj union unit BCL President Shahed Bin Kamal, General Secretary Sefayat Hossen, activists Abdur Rahman, Saifuddin Rifat, Amzad Hossain, Rahul Barua, Tarek Hossen, Miraz Akbar, Sarwar Hossen, Kawsar Ahmed and Jubo League activist Riaz Uddin, said sources at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH).

The seven who sustained bullet injuries were admitted to the hospital, said Sub-Inspector Nurul Alam Ashke, also in-charge of CMCH police outpost.

Talking to local journalists, Rezaul alleged that supporters of Mainuddin attacked the fair organisers after failing to extort money from the event.

"We will take organisational action against the attackers," he added.

Denying the allegation, Mainuddinsaid, "Supporters of Rezaul Karim suddenly attacked my followers due to previous enmity. The clash broke out when my supporters tried to resist them.

"I was not present during the clash," he claimed.

Jahid Hossain, officer-in-charge of Joranganj Police Station, said the previous enmity between the two groups led to the clash. On information, police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

No case was filed in this connection and none was arrested, he told The Daily Star yesterday evening.

Islami Bank takes

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provided the funds to Islami Bank," he said, adding that the lender repaid the funds yesterday as the repayment tenure is overnight.

The move was extraordinary: only ICB Islamic Bank and Padma Bank have used the instrument so far, said a BB official on the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

"If the bank shows a CRR shortfall at its annual balance sheet at the end of a year, the depositors' confidence in the bank will erode further," according to the BB document.

CRR is a portion of the bank's deposits that it must keep in liquid cash with the central bank to protect depositors' interest. In Bangladesh, the CRR is 4 percent.

Islami Bank had a CRR shortfall in 24 days in the last two months of 2022, shows a BB document.

"If required, BB will provide more funds by using the window in the coming days to salvage the lender

from the liquidity crunch," said a top BB official involved with the proceedings.

Mohammed Monirul Moula, managing director of Islami Bank, did not respond to The Daily Star's request for comment.

Once the most profitable private sector bank in Bangladesh, the lender's financial health deteriorated after a change in its boardroom in 2017.

The central bank is investigating the bank for gross irregularities in disbursing loans amounting to Tk 7,246 crore to nine companies last year.

This left the bank under tremendous withdrawal pressure, compelling it — along with Social Islami Bank, First Security Islami Bank, Global Islami Bank and Union Bank — to take liquidity support of Tk 5,250 crore from BB last month.

S Alam Group, a Chattogram-based business conglomerate, is well-represented in the five lenders' boards.

No feud in JP now

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events as the chief guest.

On December 13 last year, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in a meeting with Raushan and Quader called upon them to resolve their longstanding conflict and strengthen the JP to join the next election independently.

Speaking at yesterday's event, Raushan said the next national election would be held as per the constitution and the JP would take part in it.

"We will have to strengthen and take forward the Jatiya Party unitedly. Forgetting all dismay and disappointment, we will have to prioritise the party's interest instead of the personal one," she said amid applause from the party's leaders and activists.

Raushan added that the JP would do constructive politics in the country.

She also called upon the party men to evaluate dedicated and tested leaders in the next council and bring them into the party's leadership

positions.

JP Secretary General Mujibul Haque Chunnun said JP leaders and activists were relying on Raushan and Quader to get rid of the ongoing misrule, looting and corruption.

"The BNP and the Awami League ruled the country for the last 32 years and they couldn't bring anything good to the people. Both the parties looted public money and presented misrule and corruption to the country's people," said Chunnun, also a JP lawmaker.

He said the JP would nominate candidates in 300 seats in the next polls.

Anisul Islam Mahmud, JP senior co-chairman, called upon the government to restore media's freedom in the country.

"How free are the country's newspapers and electronic media? How much can the print media write? The government will have to bring back the media's freedom."

Anisul also said, "We are not against the government. We also dream the same as does the

government. As the main opposition party, we want to make the parliament effective. Together, we want to take the country forward."

There is no division in the JP as the party is united under the leadership of Raushan and Quader, he said. "We are organised and united. None will be able to split the Jatiya Party."

He hoped that the court would dismiss the case against the JP chief for which he could not speak at the programme.

JP co-chairmen Kazi Firoz Rashid, Ruhul Amin Hawlader and Syed Abu Hossain also said there was no conflict among Quader and Raushan.

Feud between them started over taking the helm of the party when JP founder and former president HM Ershad fell sick in early 2019.

The conflict reached its peak following the demise of Ershad in July 2019.

Since then, the rift between the pro-Raushan and pro-Quader factions has been making headlines on a regular basis.

tracking website In-The-Sky noted.

"This dust is continually streaming away from the comet's nucleus, and its density at any particular time is governed by the rate of sublimation of the ice in the comet's nucleus, as it is heated by the sun's rays. It also depends on the amount of dust that is mixed in with that ice. This is very difficult to predict in advance, and can be highly variable even between successive apparitions of the same comet."

Children among nine dead in Uganda New Year stampede

AFP, Kampala

At least nine people died, most aged between 10 and 20, in a shopping mall crush as revellers rang in the New Year in Uganda's capital, police said yesterday.

After fireworks outside the Freedom City mall in Kampala, "a stampede ensued, resulting in the instant deaths of five people and injuries to several others," national police spokesman Luke Owovesiyire said.