



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

I discovered a new Badhan in 'Guti'

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Azmeri Haque Badhan has taken herself to a new height with her newly released web series *Guti*, where she played the role of a drug dealer and a mother who wants her daughter to grow up in a safe environment.

Now, Badhan resides her favourite town, Cumilla, where the shooting of *Guti* took place. She is there to promote the web series along with her co-artists and director, Shankha Dasgupta. The audience of Cumilla is showering love and appreciation for the cast and crew of *Guti* as it was quite hard to pull off such a dark series about drug dealing.

"I am feeling so great to come here again. I have rediscovered a new Badhan here. It feels amazing to see the posters of *Guti* all over the town. I must it's a rare sight in a suburban area," said Badhan with excitement.

A special screening of *Guti* was held at Cumilla Town Hall. At the end of the show, the audience gave the whole team a standing ovation and clapped loudly.

"I will forever remember the hospitality and appreciation of the audience of this town. It has been a great experience for me," said Badhan.

Badhan remarked that she and her daughter love Cumilla's 'roshmalai'. Whenever she visits Cumilla, she always buys a packet of roshmalai for her.

In *Guti*, Badhan played the character of Sultana, giving her all to make the character believable. Sultana peddles drugs with her body. To portray the character more accurately, she even went as far as concealing drugs inside her body for real, which was an immensely painful process. She has received a lot of praise for her role in the series.

"It feels good to receive the love and appreciation for the character. I want to deliver more good performances like this in my career," said the actress.

Meanwhile, Badhan is gearing up for her Bollywood debut, *Khufiya*, opposite renowned faces like Tabu and Ali Fazal. The film is slated for release this year.



Badhan in 'Guti'



'Aly Zaker Notuner Utshob 2023'

coming next week

Celebrating the essence of Bangladeshi theatre itself, eminent thespian and television persona, Aly Zaker and his theatre troupe Nagorik Natya Sampradaya organised the first *Notuner Utshob*, with seven theatre plays back in 2019.

Now, paying respect to the late artiste, this year's festival has been titled *Aly Zaker Notuner Utshob 2023*. The festival will be organised by Nagorik Natya Sampradaya and Mangaldeep Foundation at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy from January 21-26.

The six-day long theatre festival will feature new theatre plays including *Remand*, *The Respectful Prostitute*, *Shokhi Rongomala*, *Adom Surat*, and *Ocholatyon*.

Chilling trailer for 'Faraaz' out

The official trailer for Hansal Mehta's thriller film, "Faraaz", was released by T Series, on its YouTube channel, yesterday. The film is said to be based on the tragic Holey Artisan incident which took place in Dhaka on July 1, 2016.

The two-minute-long trailer starts with a glimpse of customers at a café (presumably Holey Artisan) in Dhaka, enjoying their meals. As they sit there, several terrorists barge in, immediately shooting customers at random. Within the first 20 seconds, the scene has been set. It is terrifying to see the first bullet being

shot. Even though "Faraaz" is set to release in theatres across India on February 3, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's "Saturday Afternoon" still awaits clearance from Bangladesh's censor board, with the reasoning that it will hamper Bangladesh's 'image'.



NEWS

DU introduces

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The admission tests of the undergraduate programmes for the 2022-23 academic year are scheduled to start from April 29 with the fine arts faculty (Cha Unit) entry test.

The admission tests will be held under four units from this year.

Those for the arts, law and social sciences faculties (Kha unit) are scheduled to be held on May 6, for science faculty (Ka unit) on May 12, and business studies faculty (Ga unit) on May 13.

Hindu homes

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attacked the Hindu communities around 7:30pm, said Akash Biswas, a member of local union parishad.

Contacted, Kotalipara Police Station's Officer-in-Charge Zillur Rahman said police rushed to the spot on information and brought the situation under control.

Additional police have been deployed in the area to avoid further violence, he added.

US court clears way

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and institutions with the US District Court for the Southern District of New York.

The case was later transferred to the New York Supreme Court. In April last year, the court approved the "motion to dismiss" filed by two defendants -- Bloomberg (Solair) and Eastern Hawaii.

The central bank later appealed to the court to exonerate the motion.

The hearing on the appeal of the central bank is now pending with the court.

On February 4, 2016, hackers broke into the BB firewalls and generated 70 fake payment orders to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York amounting to \$1.94 billion.

The NY Fed's security system flagged the payment orders but only five of them fell through and \$101 million was released.

Of the amount, \$81 million was wired to Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation in the Philippines, while \$20 million made its way to Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka sent back the entire sum immediately after the heist was exposed.

Two in two for Bangladesh

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But Vishmi and Dewmi Vihanga provided wind in Sri Lanka's sails with a 96-run stand, which made the possibility of the game going down to the wire.

But Marufa came back in the 17th over and trapped Vihanga in front with a yorker. Vihanga's 44-ball 55 runs ended and, more importantly for the young Tigresses, the dangerous partnership too.

Off-spinner Dipa Khatun gave away just four runs in the following over and Sri Lanka had the daunting task of scoring 27 runs in the last over. In the end, three successive boundaries by Dulanga

AL activists

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streets to resist the BNP until the next election.

"Get ready to face challenges ahead. We have to prevent the chaos," AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader said at the discussion.

"They will take to the streets; we are already on the streets and will remain in future. Conspirators will not be successful."

Pointing at the BNP, he said, "Why are you afraid of taking part in elections? Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir [BNP secretary general] sometimes becomes angry fearing that they will lose in the elections If you have so much popularity, prove that through participating in the elections."

AL Presidium Member Quamrul Islam said, "Let's prepare to take part in the next election and resist this evil force [BNP Jamaat]. Their programmes are not to counter the BNP's ones."

Speaking at the event, Hasan Mahmud, information minister and also AL joint general secretary, said, "I'm urging all the party men to be alert. We will be on the streets until the next election is held. We will return home after ensuring victory of boat [AL's electoral symbol]."

At Jubo League' "peace" rally at Farmgate, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif, said, "Jubo League always protests injustice.

Dissanayake were not enough for the Lankans.

Bangladesh opener Prottasha's dashing stroke-play had captivated the audiences. "Initially I wanted to stay on the wicket and looked to build a big partnership," Prottasha told the media after the match.

"I have been fond of playing power-hitting shots since an early age. And when I arrived at the Under-19 camp, my coaches saw the talent in me and did extraordinary work on my game," she added.

With qualification guaranteed, Disha's side will now take on the USA in the last Group A match on Wednesday at the same venue.

Three killed

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The two injured were undergoing treatment at the same hospital.

Meanwhile, police seized the bus and the truck but their drivers managed to flee the scene.

2 AL leaders

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Gobinda Chandra Biswas, 45, a local homeopathy doctor, and Shahjahan Mia, 52, a local transport operator, said police.

Another AL leader, Habibur Rahman, also panel mayor of Kuliarchar municipality, is now undergoing treatment at the Dhaka hospital.

Locals and police said all of them dined together on Saturday night and fell sick and got admitted to the hospital Sunday morning. Of them, Shahjahan died Sunday afternoon.

Later, Gias Uddin and Jahir died around 4:00am yesterday and Gobinda died around 11:00am yesterday, said police quoting doctors.

"We could not identify the cause behind their deaths instantly. We will be able to know the reason after getting the autopsy reports," said Bahr Uddin Bhuiyan, director of the hospital.

Contacted, Kuliarchar Upazila Parishad Chairman Yasir Miah said he rushed to the hospital after hearing the incident and saw the bodies.

"As I guess, they [victims] might have died from food poisoning. But doctors will be able to know the actual cause," he said.

Kuliarchar Police Station Officer-in-Charge Md Golam Mustafa said police were investigating the incident. The bodies were sent to the hospital's morgue for autopsy.

Global recession

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in Europe and the United States (59 percent and 55 percent, respectively), with policy-makers caught between the risks of tightening too much or too little.

While a global slowdown would risk hitting investment in areas from education and health to tackling poverty and climate, some see it driving inflation down and forcing the US Federal Reserve and others to hold back from further rate hikes.

Swechchhasebak League

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police list, said the sources.

Hannan was killed in a "crossfire with Rab" in 2004.

A top leader of Swechchhasebak League said Mintu used to maintain ties with Hannan for the smooth operation of his business -- a contracting firm named MS Progressive Enterprises.

Mintu's name came into the limelight after he was arrested following the shooting incident in Gulshan-1 on Sunday.

Abdur Rahim, a rickshaw-van driver, and Aminul Islam, a car driver, were shot in their legs that afternoon after Mintu fired multiple shots near the Gulshan Shopping Plaza following a dispute over a digital money transaction.

The injured were rushed to the United Hospital in the capital's Gulshan.

Victim Aminul filed a case with Gulshan Police Station yesterday against five people, including Mintu, his associates Arif Hossain and Monir Ahmed, and two others -- Shariful and Humayun.

On the day of the incident, police arrested Mintu, Arif, and Monir from the spot and also recovered a pistol, 16 bullets, three bullet shells, and four magazines.

Sheikh Sahanur Rahman, inspector (investigation) of Gulshan Police Station, told The Daily Star that all the arrestees were sent to jail and police did not appeal for any remand as the arrestees gave all the information that they wanted during primary investigation.

"We have seized Mintu's firearms," he said.

Asked if Mintu had murder charges against him, Shahin Rayhan, a sub-inspector of the station and the investigating officer of the case, told this newspaper they have already sent

queries to different police stations to know whether he was accused in other cases or not.

"We will mention the findings in our investigation."

Contacted, Eashak Mia, president of Dhaka North Swechchhasebak League, yesterday said they have already formed a committee to investigate Mintu's involvement in crimes and the Gulshan incident.

"If he is found involved in any criminal offence, we will take action against him. The organisation will not take responsibility for any criminal activities."

On Sunday afternoon, Mintu's aide Arif went to Alpha General Store near Gulshan Shopping Plaza and ordered the shopkeeper to transfer Tk 75,000 to a Mobile Financial Service account.

After sending the money, shopkeeper Habibur Rahman asked for the cash but Arif said he did not have it. Habibur then detained Arif and called in nearby shopkeepers as backup.

Arif, on the other hand, called his associates, after which Kabir, Mintu and Monir arrived at the spot to free him.

As a clash broke out, Arif and the others tried to flee the scene while Habibur chased them down. At that time, Mintu fired multiple shots, two of which hit Rahim and Aminul.

Hubble spots black

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study. And that light is helpful because it can explain what is happening to the debris, and about the black hole that released it.

Astronomers think that the light they are looking at comes from a very bright, donut-shaped ring of gas that once made up the star. The area is the size of our Solar System, swirling around a black hole at its centre.

Govt scraps JSC, JDC exams

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students of grades 5 and 10 in January 2025.

Prof Tapan Kumar Sarkar, chief of the inter-education board coordination committee, and also the chairman of Dhaka education board, said, "From now on, students of class-8 will be promoted to the next class on the basis of the results of the annual exams at their respective schools."

Besides, the decision on the

scholarships under this grade would be made after a discussion, he told The Daily Star.

The government in 2010 introduced the JSC and JDC exams. But many educationists criticised the exams, terming those unnecessary and a source of stress for students.

In the last three years, the government could not hold these public examinations due to the pandemic situation.