50 years of Aranyak Natyadal

Founder Mamunur Rashid sits down with The Daily Star

"Whenever Chanchal or Babu are praised, I remember how they have grown up within our theatre troupe. I almost feel like a primary school teacher, who held their hands during their initial journey. This feeling is wonderful."

থিয়েটারের নতুন বার্তা বিধ্বস্ত পৃথিবীর জন্য
আরণ্যকের
৫০ বছর
১৯৭২-২০২২

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ekushey Padak-winning actor, Mamunur Rashid founded the Aranyak Natyadal in 1972, along with a group of young people who had returned from the war. Today marks the 50th anniversary of the group. To celebrate the occasion, an eight-day festival has been organised, which will end on February 3.

A pioneer of Bangladeshi theatre, Mamunur Rashid sat down with The Daily Star at his Dhanmondi residence, to talk about the special occasion, his career, and much more.

Being here on the 50th year of Aranyak Natyadal, who do you remember the most?

Everybody. I am one of the founding members of Aranyak Natyadal. Most of those who were with me at the start, are no longer here. There is no Aly Zaker. There is no Subhash Dutta. Dr Enamul Haque is also no longer with us.

Mujib bin Haque is no longer in the country. Nazmul Hossain works in a completely different field. After them, came the new additions to the team. Some remained, some left. Many have been with our troupe since the 1980's.

Mannan Hira, for example, joined Aranyak Natyadal in the 1980's. He passed away after spending many years with the group. Year after year, the troupe has continued to work. The work is real. After 50 years, I can fondly recall many words, many events and many memories.

Could you tell us about this festival?

The first ever play I worked in was called ***Kobor***. This play will be staged in this year's festival. Every day, there will be plays staged. Our production ***Rajnetra,*** which has been written and directed by Haroon Rashid, will also be staged.

'Ora Kadam Ali' will be returning to the stage after almost 25 years.

I wrote ***Ora Kadam Ali*** at the age of 26. At the time, it was one of the most staged plays. There isn't a place in Bangladesh where it wasn't staged. I even performed this play in places where there were no stages. In the 1970's, ***Ora Kadam Ali*** really spread amongst the masses and I am glad to see it returning after so long.

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Many artistes including the likes of Azizul Hakim, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Chanchal Chowdhury have come into the limelight after having been in your theatre troupe. How does this make you feel?

This kind of thing brings me a lot of joy. I really enjoy seeing them succeed. Whenever anyone praises them, I feel that I am being praised as well. I know many people usually become jealous, however I don't understand that logic at all.

Whenever Chanchal or Babu are praised, I remember how they have grown up within our theatre troupe. I almost feel like a primary school teacher, who held their hands during their initial journey. This feeling is wonderful.

When I visit Kolkata, people older than me bow down and praise Chanchal's performances. At the same time, when Chanchal visits Kolkata, he always speaks about me during interviews.

What drama will the festival close with?

The festival will end with a performance of ***Sangkranti***. It is a drama that evokes an immense response from the audience, which makes it one of my favorite plays.

Are you ever left feeling that you want more, or that there is something you haven't achieved yet?

Life is not perfect and there is no end to human desire. We will always have the desire to do more, reach more people, spread our art to as many people as possible. This desire, as a human, will never cease to exist.

Mosharraf Karim, Niloy to star in a new rom-com

Get ready to see this year's most entertaining trio as Mosharraf Karim, Niloy Alamgir and Jannatul Sumaiya Heme come together for CMV's latest production ***Rangila.*** The romantic comedy will see the two protagonists, Salman and Razzak fighting for Laila's love.

In the drama-Laila (Heme) will be seen playing the role of a dancer in the village, while Razzak (Mosharraf Karim) will be seen as a canvas painter and Salman (Niloy) dons the role of a pick pocketer.

Rangila will be released on the CMV Youtube channel soon.

'Pathaan' triumphs over 'KGF: 2' in box-office

Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone starrer ***Pathaan***, was finally released on January 25, making fans flock to the cinema halls. Unsurprisingly, the film broke the first-day box-office opening record for a Hindi film—earning Rs 55 crore.

Beating record-holders ***KGF: Chapter 2***, which earned Rs 53.9 crore, Shah Rukh Khan's new action-thriller has been crowned the highest box-office opening film. Even though the film wasn't released on a holiday, ***Pathaan*** performed stunningly.

According to media outlets, the film earned Rs 55 crore from all around India on its opening day, and Rs 2 crore more from the dubbed version release, bringing it to a total of Rs 57 crore in its first-day collection.

NEWS

75pc money laundering

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fabricated fake certificates, the paper said.

Since the amendment of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act 2015, the Customs Intelligence and Investigation Directorate has filed 95 cases for money laundering involving Tk 3,201 crore, Sadiq said.

The infrastructure of most of the land customs stations in the country is also very fragile.

Due to a lack of proper infrastructure, the service delivery of traders is being hampered and it is not possible to establish the necessary customs controls, it said.

As a result, trade facilitation is being hindered.

On the other hand, the country's revenue and security are at risk due to the inability to impose customs control.

The NBR is taking various plans, programmes and projects to overcome this situation, it added.

In the era of free trade, the overall development of the country is not possible in any way without further facilitation of trade and commerce, said NBR Chairman Abu Hena Md Rahmatul Muneem.

Ease of doing business is a big challenge for Bangladesh to survive in a competitive world, he said.

To meet this challenge, the capacity of Bangladesh Customs will have to be increased further.

"That's why various types of activities have been taken," Muneem added.

Murad granted pardon from AL

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said he did not receive any letter about the pardon yet but got the confirmation.

Contacted, an organising secretary of the AL central committee confirmed that Murad is among the leaders who have been pardoned.

During an interview on the Facebook page of NahidRains Pictures, posted on social media in 2021, Murad made some offensive comments on BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his daughter Zaima Rahman.

He then got embroiled in another controversy when an audio clip of a phone call between him and actor Emon and actress Mahi leaked and went viral on social media.

Bela team attacked during Ctg field visit

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blunt weapons. They blocked our driver while he was coming to pick us up.

"They freed our driver after we informed the police. When we boarded our microbus, they started chasing us and pelted stones targeting the vehicle," she claimed.

AKM Mohiuddin Selim, assistant commissioner (Pahartali zone), said, "A group of local youths cordoned off Rizwana's vehicle during their visit."

On information, police rushed to the spot and escorted the Bela team. "We will take legal action if anyone files a complaint in this regard," Selim said.

Contacted, Councillor Jashim said he was at his farmhouse during the incident. "I don't know who carried out the attack."

Locals said the allegation of hill cutting and land grabbing is not new against Councillor Jashim, who is also the joint convener of Uttar Pahartali ward unit Awami League.

At the mercy of highway robbers

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van's door to open it without damaging the sealed padlock. They steal 30 to 40 percent products from each carton, refill those with jhut and sand and again seal the cartons. The nuts of the bolt are screwed again, the exporter added.

Shahidullah Azim, vice president of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), said CCTV cameras are yet to be installed along highways.

Bangladesh is the world's second largest garment exporter. The country exported garment worth $42.61 billion in the last fiscal year, according to data of Export Promotion Bureau.

Leaders of BGMEA, BKMEA and law enforcement officials said theft of readymade garment products has increased significantly in the last few years. However, neither of the associations nor the law enforcers have the exact number of stealing.

A Rapid Action Battalion official who led several drives against such theft said BGMEA and BKMEA leaders informed them that at least 30 stealing of RMG products took place last year. However, the actual figure is much higher, he said wishing anonymity.

According to BGMEA, two RMG theft on highways were reported in 2019, nine in 2020 and at least 22 were recorded till July in 2021.

On December 23, Rab-4 raided an abandoned factory in Dhaka's Demra and arrested seven such gang members, including Tawhidul Islam, the leader of a gang, recovered stolen RMG products worth Tk 6 crore and seized a covered van.

Rab officials said Tawhidul used to sell clothes on footpaths 10 years ago. He got involved with a gang and became a millionaire in last three years. He now owns a house in Dhaka and an expensive car.

On September 8 last year, Rab arrested four members of another inter-district RMG theft gang in Cumilla, recovered stolen garment products worth about Tk 4 crore and seized a covered van.

"We have recovered stolen garments products worth about Tk 30 crore in seven such drives and arrested around 50 members of different theft gangs," said Jahidul Islam, additional SP of Rab-4.

BGMEA Director Rajib Chowdhury said RMG theft has increased significantly in recent years, but the victim exporters didn't always report such incidents.

BKMEA President Mohammad Hatem said theft of readymade garments has been on the rise as those involved in such criminal activity are securing bail easily following the filing of cases. After walking out of jail, they again get involved in stealing, he added.

Exporters demanded recording of RMG theft cases under the Special Powers Act as the crime is damaging the country's image abroad and putting the sector at risk.

Rajib Chowdhury suggested that the exporters should weld on the nuts of the bolt.

বাংলাদেশ শিল্পকলা একাডেমির প্রশিক্ষণ বিভাগে
ভর্তি চলছে
শিক্ষাবর্ষ: ২০২৩

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