

The greatest joy of my entire career

Mir Sabbir wins National Film Award for 'Raat Jaga Phool'

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Recently, Mir Sabbir bagged the National Film Award in the 'Best Actor in a Lead Role' category for his performance in the government-granted film *Raat Jaga Phool*. The film also marked the actor's directorial debut, as he continues to impress audiences with his multi-talented persona for two decades now.

The Daily Star caught up with the actor-director, to congratulate him on his achievement.

This is the first time you have achieved the National Film Award, that too with your own directorial film. How does it feel?

This recognition has given me the greatest joy of my entire career, so far. I am grateful to the jury board for giving me such an honour. I am thankful to the entire team of *Raat Jaga Phool*, who have worked tirelessly for this film.

When you started out, did you ever imagine that you would someday receive the National Film Award?

An artiste never works because he aims for a certain reward. They work to fill the souls of people through art. Since I did not just act in the project, but also directed it, it is really hard for me to put into words just how much it means to me. All I can say is, I have made *Raat Jaga Phool* with a lot of care and love.

Do you feel that your responsibility as an artiste has increased now?

Frankly speaking, since the beginning of my career, I have always been responsible

about my work. I have always been committed to art, and this will continue forever. Personally, I believe an artiste grows when one feels accountable for their work. So, yes, I expect to grow.

How did your family react to you winning the National Film Award?

The news had already been leaked before it was officially announced. Thus, they already knew about it. However, after the confirmation came, they were overjoyed and it really made me happy.

When do you plan to make your next film?

I do want to keep directing films, let's see. Moreover, I have more passion for acting. For the time being, I would like to focus on acting more.

What, in your opinion, is your greatest achievement in the last two decades?

I am blessed with all the love and support from my parents, family and mostly from the audience, who have showered their love towards me since the beginning of my career. My hard work would have gone in vain, if the audience would not accept me. So, my greatest achievement is their love and appreciation.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Subhashree looks unrecognisable in OTT debut teaser

Tollywood actress Subhashree Ganguly, who had major success in Bengali commercial films, is now all set to make her OTT debut with the series, *Indubala Bhatar Hotel*, directed by Debaloy Bhattacharya.

The teaser for the series was released yesterday and has already created a buzz on the internet, due to Subhashree's makeover as an old woman. In order to portray the protagonist, Subhashree was required to undergo a drastic physical makeover. The first look of her as Indubala shocked all of her fans, as she looked unrecognisable as an eighty-year-old.

Based on Kallol Lahiri's novel *Indubala Bhatar Hotel*, the series is expected to release on Hoichoi in March.

Let's not embarrass Bangladesh: Farooki requests clearance letter



On January 21, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki's *Saturday Afternoon (Shonibar Bikel)* finally received a verbal clearance from the Bangladesh Film Censor Board, after being stuck in limbo for four long years. However, he is yet to receive the official letter from the board.

On Facebook, Farooki wrote an open letter to the censor board, speaking about how he is still waiting for their official letter.

In the post, he shared how the world had already learned about the Censor Board's decision to give *Saturday Afternoon* clearance. So, they should quickly send him the official letter, so he can release his film before *Faraaz*.

NEWS

61 killed, 150 hurt

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the debris, rising to 61 killed with more than 150 wounded.

As darkness fell, at least four men were still trapped in the wreckage, visible through cracks in the concrete. "We have given them oxygen so that they don't have problems in breathing," said Bilal Ahmad Faizi, a spokesperson for the rescue organisation I122.

The outlawed Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) claimed responsibility for the blast, reports Dawn online.

The police headquarters in Peshawar is in one of the most tightly controlled areas of the city, housing intelligence and counter-terrorism bureaus, and is next door to the regional secretariat.

Provinces around the country announced they were on high alert after the blast, with checkpoints ramped up and extra security forces deployed, while in the capital Islamabad snipers were deployed on buildings and at city entrance points.

"Terrorists want to create fear by targeting those who perform the duty of defending Pakistan," said Prime

Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a statement. "Those fighting against Pakistan will be wiped out from the face of earth."

Officers said the blast came from the second row of devotees.

Shahid Ali, a policeman who survived, said the explosion took place seconds after the imam started prayers. "I saw black smoke rising to the sky. I ran out to save my life," the 47-year-old told AFP.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned the "abhorrent" blast at the mosque.

United States Secretary of States Antony Blinken extended his condolences while describing it as a "horrific attack".

The drastic security breach came on the day United Arab Emirates (UAE) President Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan had been due to visit Islamabad, although the trip was cancelled at the last minute due to bad weather.

Pakistan is also preparing to host an International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation today as it works towards unlocking a vital bailout loan to prevent a looming default.

Join next nat'l election

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A group of AL men, led by former Shyampur to press home their 10-point demand, including the next national election under a non-partisan government, the AL's "peace rally" was to "counter" the BNP's programme.

"To retain the existence of your party, join the next polls that will take place in line with the constitution. Otherwise, you will plunge into an existential crisis," AL Joint General Secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif said at the rally. Calling upon the BNP to take part in the polls, AL presidium member Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya said, "If you want to come to power, you will have to join the polls, you cannot come to power in any other way. Don't try to create anarchy on the streets. Attempts to create anarchy will be answered on the streets."

Activists of AL and its associated bodies took position in different parts of Jatrabari since morning as the BNP started marching from the area.

Minister Shehbaz Sharif in a statement. "Those fighting against Pakistan will be wiped out from the face of earth."

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Explain in four weeks 'BCL men' vandalise office

FROM PAGE 2
officers-in-charge of Kaliakoir and Palong police stations in the two districts have been made respondents to the rule.

The HC bench of Justice KM Kamrul Kader and Justice Mohammad Ali issued the rule following a writ petition filed by Supreme Court lawyer Kayser Kamal, also the BNP's law affairs secretary, seeking necessary directives.

The lawyer submitted the petition on January 24, saying that the government arbitrarily handcuffed and lettered Azam and Selim to physically and mentality harass and torture them and to make people panicked, which is illegal and contradictory to the constitution.

The country's constitution has prohibited any inhumane and degrading behaviour towards any person, he said in the petition.

Azam, president of Boali union BNP in Gazipur's Kaliakoir upazila, is behind bars in a case filed under the Explosive Substances Act. Chhatra Dal Assistant General Secretary Selim is in jail in an arson case.

Complete Roman

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"A complete residential village was discovered, with two pigeon towers found for the first time," Waziri announced in a video posted on Twitter last week.

These towers served as nests to in which to raise carrier pigeons, Waziri explained. The birds would then be used to transport messages to other parts of the Roman Empire.

The excavations, which began in September, also uncovered a hoard of tools, pots and bronze and copper Roman coins.

The uncovered city was found in Luxor, a modern-day city that sits on the banks of the Nile and is the site of Thebes, the famous ancient Egyptian city.

Luxor is home to the world-famous Valley of the Kings and Valley of the Queens and was designated a Unesco World Heritage Site in 1979.

Waziri praised the discovery as a rare find in an already "excellent" season. Luxor has long been a site rich with archaeological finds, and the latest discovery of this ancient city follows the uncovering of a number of tombs in January alone.

Conduct probe

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We want to know what has happened." Asif's wife Meherunnesa told this newspaper yesterday that her husband went missing hours after he left their Ashuganj home on Friday afternoon.

Voters consider Asif, a former upazila chairman, to be the main rival of another independent runner Abdus Sattar Bhuiyan, an expelled BNP leader, who locals say has the ruling Awami League's blessings.

The by-polls will be held tomorrow. "I am scared. My husband has not returned home for the last four days," Meherunnesa said.

Deputy Commissioner Shahgir Alam told reporters that Asif was in hiding and he was not detained by law enforcers. The matter is being investigated.

Meanwhile, Shamiul Haque Liton, an independent runner from Chapainawabganj-3 alleged that 12 of his campaign offices were vandalised and three others were set on fire on Sunday night.

He said in a complaint to the returning officer yesterday that supporters of AL candidate Abdul Wadud did this, an allegation the latter refuted.

Returning Officer AKM Galib Khan said this was an isolated incident. "Necessary action will be taken after investigation."

appointed several candidates who are involved in anti-government campaigns. "We have started a protest against the appointment of anti-government activists. We will continue it until their appointments are cancelled," he added.

Despite several attempts, this correspondent could not reach the VC over the phone for comments.

Sohidul Islam, assistant proctor of the university, told The Daily Star that they were trying to resume the shuttle train services.

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Hasina said her government took Bangladesh forward as per its plans and the country attained the status of a developing country in 2021. "It has been possible only because democracy continues and elected public representatives have been in power since 2009."

"Hope that you all notice the change in Bangladesh in the last 14 years [2009-2023] and it has only been possible as the Awami League is in power."

Hasina said her government has already developed the country as "Digital Bangladesh" and now its target is to transform it into a "Smart Bangladesh" by 2041 where everything, including governance, economy, education and health sectors, would be smart. "Inshallah, we'll be able to do so."

Noting that international organisations predicted that the global economic downturn might worsen this year, the PM said the

People voted for AL as it worked for them

FROM PAGE 12
government has focused on raising food production, and that it already asked all not to leave a single inch of land uncultivated to protect the country from the blow of the economic recession.

She also asked all to practice austerity in using electricity, water and other resources during the global crisis induced by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war and economic sanctions and counter-sanctions.

The projects opened yesterday include six of the Public Works Department, three of the National Housing Authority and two of Rajuk.

The six projects of Public Works Department are 20-storey Judges' Quarters (90 flats) at Azimpur in the capital; nine 10-storey housing buildings (324 flats) for government officials and employees at Mirpur-6; renovation of Bangladesh Supreme Court Bar Library Bhaban, Annex Bhaban and auditorium;

infrastructural development and overall beautification of Ramna Park; and 13-storey housing buildings (288 flats) for government officials and employees at Tejgaon; and nine 10-storey housing buildings (324 flats) for government officials and employees in Noakhali Sadar upazila.

Three projects of the National Housing Authority are 1,040 residential flats (Swapnanagar-1) for middle-income people at Mirpur-9; 14-storey housing building (100 flats) at Mirpur-15; and site and services residential plots in Sunamganj.

Two Rajuk projects are Purbachal water supply project phase-I, Progati High School Bhaban, and Palkhan High School and Purbachal Adarsha College Bhaban in Purbachal new city project.

Mosharrif Hossain, chairman of the parliamentary standing committee on housing and public works ministry, and Shorif Ahmed, state minister for housing and public works, spoke at the event.