

Remembered my wife after hearing about Ekushey Padak

MASUD ALI KHAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Recently, it was announced that eminent actor Masud Ali Khan would be receiving the Ekushey Padak—the second highest civilian award in Bangladesh. This came to fruition after industry regulars voiced their support for the artiste after The Daily Star published the report, “93-year-old Masud Ali Khan has no regrets”.

However, the actor has not been able to work for the last four years. Yet, audiences still love Masud Ali Khan for his performances in timeless dramas like *Kul nai Kinar nai*, *Ei Shob Din Ratri*, and *Kothao Keu Nei*.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, the Ekushey Padak-winning actor opened up about his life.

You have finally been announced as an Ekushey Padak recipient. What was your first reaction to the good news?

When I first received the news about the award, my wife was not at home, as she was visiting the doctor. She was the first person to come to my mind when I got to know this wonderful news. After that, I remembered my beautiful parents, who have never stopped me and have always told me to pursue my passion. I also miss my son, who is staying abroad with his family.

Many entertainment personalities came forward to ensure that your hard work was acknowledged. This came after The Daily Star published a news article about you.

I am forever grateful to The Daily Star and to you, for writing about me. Nobody thought about me until now. However, after your thoughtful piece, people began

to realise my contributions and nominated me for the prize. I am thankful to the government for giving me the honour.

What were your feelings after winning the award?

I want to thank the government and all my colleagues for always supporting me and for also giving me this award. After my name was revealed in the list, almost all of my colleagues called me up and congratulated me. This really feels good.

What was your first movie?

My first film was *Nodi O Nari*, where I starred alongside talented actors like Kazi Khaliq and Dr Rawshan Ara. The shooting took place in the *char* area of Padma river. The memory of the shooting is still fresh in my heart. I remember I watched my film for the first time in Gulistan Hall and I felt that I needed to improve my acting.

Do you have any regrets in life?
I don't have any regrets as an artiste, however deep down I feel guilty that I can't contribute anything to acting now.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Shakib Khan injured



Dhallywood's popular actor Shakib Khan has been injured while shooting for his latest project, *Agun*. The actor was shooting an action scene yesterday, when he sprained his right ankle.

He has received primary care in a private hospital but is currently resting at home as per doctor's instructions.

The Badiul Alam Khokon directorial, *Agun* is expected to be released on the occasion of Eid. Once recovered, Shakib will finish shooting the film's musical sequence.

The film also features Misha Sawdagar, Ali Raj, Zahara Mitu and others in pivotal roles.

Coke Studio Bangla: The magic returns

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

Yesterday, around 4:30 pm, Coke Studio Bangla was present, live at six locations across four divisions—Dhaka, Chattogram, Khulna and Sylhet.

The event featured a number of activities, including fan interactions, along with the grand launching of Season 2. Special guests, including Coke Studio artistes and Shayan Chowdhury Arnob were present.

The live screening for the first song from season two took place around 6 pm. The event in Dhaka took place at Rabindra Sarobar in Dhanmondi.



NEWS

'A dark spot' in the country's legal history

FROM PAGE 12

President Md Tanbir Bhuiyan, Secretary (administration) Akkas Ali, and lawyer Zubayer Islam.

The three lawyers appeared before the bench in compliance with summons.

Supreme Court Bar Association President Md Momtaz Uddin Fakir and Secretary Md Abdun Nur Dulal, Bangladesh Bar Council Executive Member Mohammad Sayeed Ahmed Raza, and Supreme Court lawyer Shah Monjurul Hoque appeared for Tanbir, Akkas and Zubayer during the hearing. They prayed to the HC to give one month's time for placing explanations before it about the roles of their clients in connection with the incidents at the Brahmanbaria court.

They told the HC that steps were taken to settle the issues at the Brahmanbaria court and the situation improved as courts were functioning now.

The HC bench said, “You have not submitted any affidavit [explaining the conducts of the lawyers in reply to the rule]. This court had given one month's time to submit the affidavit, but you didn't do anything. The court in Brahmanbaria, which is a constitutional institution, has been kept dysfunctional for a month.”

Lawyer Momtaz Uddin requested the HC to fix a date in March for further hearing on the rule.

The bench said, “A man can make mistakes. He can show arrogance for a day. But can this go on continuously?”

Momtaz Uddin said they have held meetings with the stakeholders and taken necessary steps to settle the issue.

“We have no laches. Some media published exaggerated reports,” he said.

The HC bench then fixed February 26 for holding further hearing on

the issue and ordered Brahmanbaria lawyers Tanbir, Akkas and Zubayer to appear before it on that day in connection with the contempt of court rule against them.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission's lawyer Ashraful Hadi informed the same HC bench yesterday that the BTRC took down from social media platforms 13 videos on the incidents of lawyers' misbehaviour with a judge in a Brahmanbaria courtroom.

Eight videos were removed from Facebook and five from YouTube in compliance with the HC order, he told the HC.

On January 5, the HC bench summoned and issued contempt of court rule against Tanbir, Akkas and Zubayer for shouting and creating chaos in the courtroom of the Brahmanbaria Nari O Shishu Nirjaton Tribunal-I and for misbehaving and scolding its judge.

It's not office

FROM PAGE 12

that the post of president cannot be called an office of profit. It [the restriction] is clearly not applicable to him [president-elect Sahabuddin].

“The president or prime minister or ministers are not employees or officers of the republic. These are constitutional posts.”

The EC on Monday issued a gazette notification declaring Shahabuddin, a retired district judge and former ACC commissioner, as the president-elect.

Alamgir, also a former EC secretary, said constitutional posts do not fall under the definition of a profitable post.

Regarding the next national election, he said as per an action plan, the election will be held between the last week of December this year and the first week of January next year.

Explore new markets

FROM PAGE 2

Textile Engineering Institute in Sirajganj and Bhola Textile Institute.

Textiles and Jute Minister Golam Dastagir Gazi, Bir Prateek, its secretary Abdur Rauf and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association Acting President Shahidullah Azim also spoke at the function.

Dastagir, on behalf of the prime minister, handed over honorary awards to 10 individuals and institutions including the BGMEA, BKMEA, BTMEA, and Bangladesh University of Textiles.

Sheikh Hasina said the readymade garments industry was playing a pivotal role in the country's economy as Bangladesh has earned \$45.70 billion by exporting those in 2022.

“The textile sector makes a special contribution to our economy. We have earned a lot of foreign currency by exporting readymade garment items, and it has created a huge employment [opportunity] for both women and men. It has particularly opened a new door to women's employment.”

The prime minister said the readymade garments immensely contributed to making the village economy more vibrant as the women from the grassroots worked in the garment factories.

Did Modi pressure Hasina

FROM PAGE 12

cost of electricity supplied to Bangladesh from Adani's Godda [Jharkhand] power plant is much higher than what its own thermal plants supply? Does enriching your friends at the expense of neighbouring countries further India's foreign policy interests?” the party asked in the first question.

In its second question, the Congress aimed its gun on Adani's power plant in Jharkhand.

The party claimed that Jharkhand, in 2016, required 25 percent of the electricity produced by a power plant to be supplied to the state at discounted rates. This was reflected in its initial February 2016 agreement with Adani Power.

“However, in October 2016, the policy was abruptly amended to benefit Adani,” the party said.

Is it correct that these revised terms will cost Jharkhand money over the 25-year lifetime of the project? Did the office of the state accountant general say that the agreement with Adani amounted to “preferential treatment” and would give the company “undue benefits?” it asked.

“What was your role in persuading the then Jharkhand Chief Minister Raghubar Das of BJP to reverse this longstanding state government policy?” read the party's second question.

The Congress alleged that in February 2018, Adani Power had applied to set up the plant as a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to avail benefits. The party said the ministry of commerce had, however, declined this request because it conflicted

with guidelines that prohibited the establishment of a standalone power plant inside an SEZ.

Next year, the Congress said the ministry changed its view and amended the said guidelines on January 9, 2019. Thereafter, on February 25 the same year, the Board of Approval for SEZs approved Adani Power's application.

“What was the role of the Prime Minister's Office in this policy change that benefitted Adani Power to the tune of Rs 300 crore per year via the elimination of coal import duties?” the Congress asked in its third question.

The official spokesman of India's External Affairs Ministry Arindam Bagchi had recently sought to distance the government from the Adani Power and Bangladesh deal saying, “We are not even involved in it.”

Bus, armoured truck crash kills 20 in South Africa

AFP, Johannesburg

A crash between an armoured truck and a bus has killed 20 people and injured another 60 in South Africa's northern province of Limpopo, the regional transport department said yesterday.

“Twenty people were tragically killed in an accident, where a cash-in-transit truck lost control and collided head-on with an oncoming bus” on a highway on Monday, the department said in a statement.

Security co-op, Rohingya issue

FROM PAGE 12

with an elevated focus on the Rohingya humanitarian response,” a foreign ministry statement said.

Meanwhile, Indian Foreign Secretary Vinay Mohan Kwatra also arrived in Dhaka for the Foreign Office Consultation (FOC) between him and Bangladesh Foreign Secretary Masud Bin Momen, who received him at the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport last evening. Kwatra will also call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her Principal Secretary M Tofazzel Hossain Miah, Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen. He will attend a dinner to be hosted by the Indian High Commission.

A statement of the India's Ministry of External Affairs said India and Bangladesh will discuss forging greater cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, power and energy, defence, connectivity, water and security at the FOC.

“The visit to Bangladesh is in line with the highest priority accorded to India's ‘Neighborhood First’

policy. Bangladesh is India's top-most development partner and its largest trade partner in the region. The foreign secretary's upcoming visit will further strengthen bilateral ties and impart momentum to the ongoing cooperation in diverse areas,” the statement said.

Foreign ministry officials said Vinay Kwatra will also discuss the G20 Summit, which will be held in New Delhi in September. Prime Minister Hasina is expected to attend the summit.

Foreign Minister Momen in early March will also attend the G20 foreign minister-level meeting in New Delhi.

Also, South Korean Presidential Envoy Jang Sung Min also arrived in Dhaka for a two-day visit. Toufique Hasan, the foreign ministry's director general (east Asia and the Pacific), received him at the airport.

He will also call on Prime Minister Hasina and Foreign Minister Momen.

Jang Sung Min, who is now senior secretary for future strategy in the

President's Office, will explore ways to improve bilateral relations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries this year.

He will discuss ways to strengthen economic ties, promote trade and investment, and explore new areas of cooperation.

“This visit is expected to serve as an opportunity for Korea and Bangladesh to strengthen their friendship and cooperation and to explore new opportunities for mutual benefit on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between the two countries,” said a statement of the South Korean embassy in Dhaka.

Amazon's Zoox

FROM PAGE 12

Other companies, such as Alphabet subsidiary Waymo and General Motors subsidiary Cruise, have been testing robotaxi services in limited areas but vehicles are still built with controls to allow a human drivers to take control as a precaution.