

# I have nothing to be sad about

SOHEL RANA

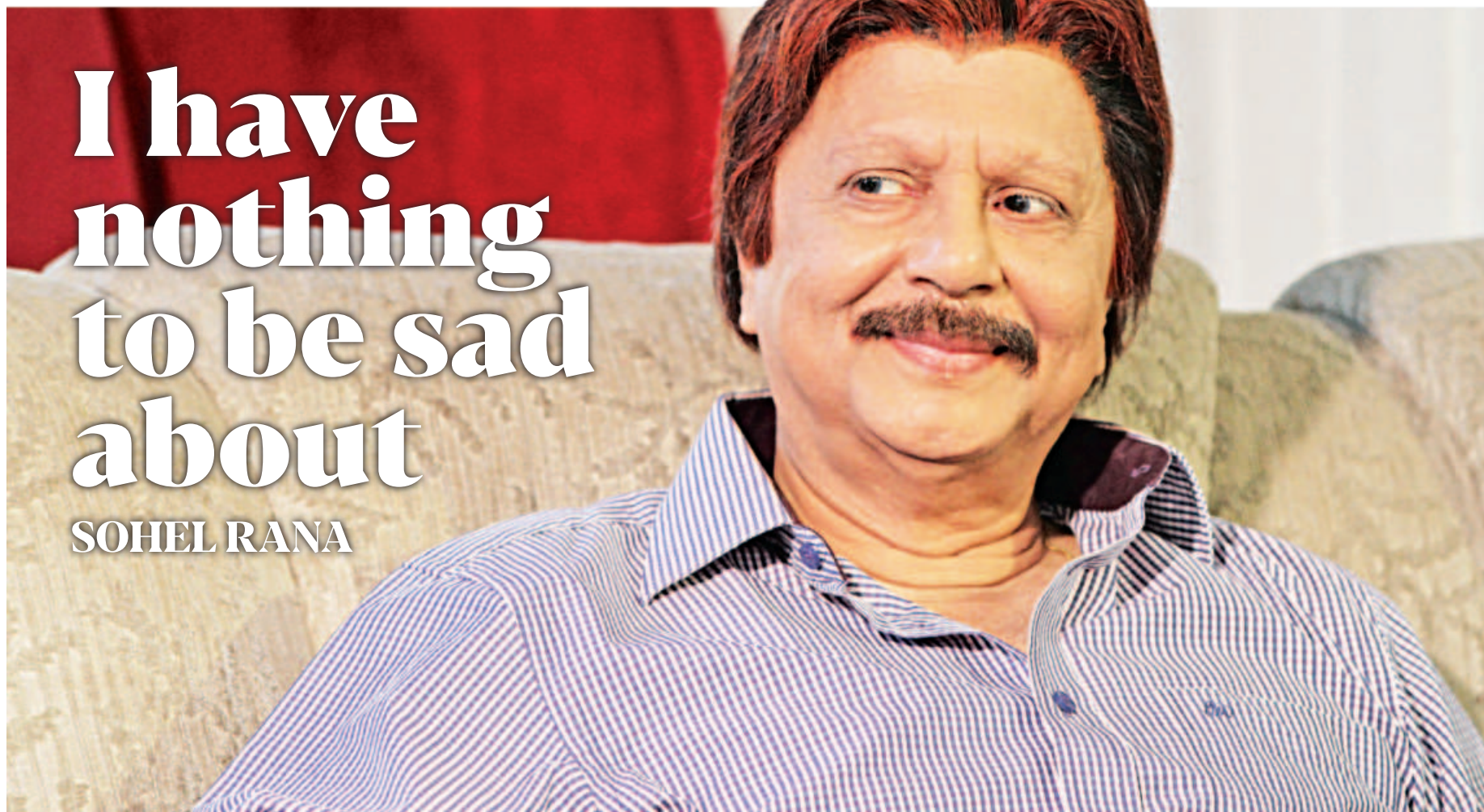


PHOTO: STAR

**I don't want to live for a long time now. I just wish to be with everyone for 5-7 years and leave the world without hurting anyone.**

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Sohel Rana, for over 5 decades of his illustrious career, displayed excellence not only in acting but also in direction and production. The actor has earned numerous National Film and Lifetime Achievement awards.

In addition, he is also a respected freedom fighter. After the birth of the nation, Sohel Rana was the first to produce a film based on the Liberation War called *Ora Egaro Jon*.

On the occasion of his birthday, the actor had a casual chat with The Daily Star.

**You have just turned 77 years old, how are you feeling about it?** I'm alive, and for that, I am grateful to the Almighty. With every breath, my lifespan

is nearing its end. Many of my time have already left us. Their memories often flash before my eyes. Times have changed, and so have our beliefs.

I just pray that the Almighty keeps me as I am today. I want to stay healthy and leave this world while I remain healthy. I don't want to fall ill and be a burden to anybody.

**You are both an actor and a freedom fighter. What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

That would be the love and respect of the people. What could be a greater achievement than that? I think I got everything that the Almighty had in store for me. I

am an ordinary man who has only acted in films. For me, to gain the love and blessings of so many people—nothing could triumph over this.



## Akshay Kumar breaks the Guinness World Record of selfies



While the promotional work for the Akshay Kumar and Emraan Hashmi starrer film *Seljee* is still underway, Akshay Kumar surprises fans by breaking the Guinness World Record for Self Portrait Photographs (Selfie) taken during the film's promotion event in Mumbai.

The *Welcome* famed actor took 184 selfies in three minutes, making him the new world record holder. Previously, this record was held by Dwayne Johnson with 105 selfies back in 2015, and then by James Smith in 2018 with a record of 168 selfies.

Speaking about the world record, Akshay Kumar posted on his social media accounts, "I am ecstatic about breaking this unique World Record and sharing this moment with my fans! Everything that I have achieved so far and where I am at this moment of my life, is due to the unconditional love and support of my fans everywhere."

## Chorki's latest series 'Overtrump' is a crime-comedy



Once a genius sweets vendor or once a truck driver, Chanchal Chowdhury has donned many faces on Chorki's platform. After the success of projects like *Guti* and *Unish 20*, Chorki has now unveiled the official poster of *Overtrump*.

Directed by Bashar Georgis, the crime-comedy features Chanchal Chowdhury, Fs Nayeem, Ashna Habib Bhabna and Samira

Khan Mahi in pivotal roles. In the first look, Chanchal can be seen in a full white suit with a floral shirt and tinted glasses on, looking perplexed. He is surrounded by the different characters of the series, all decked out in different poses and clothing. The car motif on the bottom of the poster does give off the idea that the plot might revolve around a car chase or kidnapping.

# NEWS

## Won't be pricier

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revise the Power Purchase Agreement as it involves their lenders.

A number of PDB officials, including members of company affairs and finance, were present in the meeting, reports UNB, quoting an anonymous top official of PDB.

The issue of the meeting was kept secret as it was sensitive for both sides, UNB wrote.

Sources said both sides heard each other's points and arguments in favour of them and expressed interest in virtual follow-up meetings.

The Adani delegation said they would communicate PDB's stance on coal pricing mechanism to their top management.

"We're hopeful that Adani will finally accept Bangladesh's request for revising the PPA [Power Purchase Agreement] to set a new coal pricing mechanism," the PDB official told UNB.

The Adani team later met the PDB chairman.

Earlier, Bangladesh sought a revision of the PPA it signed with Adani Power Ltd for importing electricity from Adani Godda Power Plant in 2017.

However, Adani Power said it could not revise the agreement but could give discounts on the coal price.

The cost incurred to import the coal, including transportation cost from port to plant, will ultimately be borne by Bangladesh.

An analysis of the Power Cell of the energy ministry revealed in January that the government pays \$245 for a tonne of coal for the Payra plant, \$254.38 for the S Alam power plant in Banskhalhi and the Rampal power plant in Baerhat, and \$270 for the Barishal coal-fired power plant. It estimated that the Adani plant's coal price would be \$346 per tonne.

## Ansar al Islam

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Md Shahidullah, deputy commissioner of Ramna Division Police, confirmed The Daily Star about the "unverified letter".

The letter has been sent to the Counter Terrorism and Transnational Crime (CTTC) unit of the DMP for further scrutiny, he said. The CTTC will investigate if the threat is genuine, he added.

Mahfuzul Haque Bhuiyan, OC (investigation) at Shahbagh Police Station, said security around the Amar Ekushey Boi Mela has been beefed up.

The Daily Star obtained a copy of the hand written letter. The person also threatened to attack the police headquarters.

It said the attack would be carried out since police did not stop prostitution in some city hotels and book authors did not write against such activities.

## Suspended cop

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Staff Reporter FM Mizanur Rahaman from his phone at 2:22pm and said, "Your news was fantastic. Very good. I came to learn that you are an extortionist [journalist] and you extort money from police traffic boxes and different institutions. I will see you. Will talk again. I will find out how you become a great journalist. Just sec."

He called again at 2:53pm and said, "You along with another journalist tried to extort money from me for the news. I will expose you."

Faisal Mahmud, additional commissioner (Traffic) of CMP, said issuing such a threat is a criminal offence. "If any such threat is issued, the reporter concerned

may inform us of the matter in writing or file a general diary. We will take departmental action upon investigation."

Mizanur filed a general diary late last night.

Md Mostafizur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Pahartali Police Station, told The Daily Star, "Police submitted the charge sheet implicating Shapla and three others as the allegations against them over extorting money was found to be true."

According to the case statement, Nabi Hossain was going to a court from Cumilla to appear in a case on January 16 last year via Pahartali area in the city.

Shapla intercepted the car he was travelling in and threatened Nabi with implicating him in another case

## Indian-origin Ajay

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leader of the International Monetary Fund is customarily European.

Banga, 63, is Indian-American and currently serving as vice chairman at equity firm General Atlantic.

He was previously chief executive at Mastercard.

Banga has "critical experience mobilizing public-private resources to tackle the most urgent challenges of our time, including climate change," said Biden in a statement.

Last week current World Bank President Malpass — who was nominated to the post by Biden's predecessor Donald Trump in 2019 — said he would step down nearly a year early, ending a tenure that was clouded by questions over his climate stance.

His term would originally have ended in 2024.

Banga's nomination comes amid a push for development lenders to revamp and address global problems like environmental issues more effectively.

US Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen earlier said that lenders' core models, where countries borrow to make specific investments addressing developmental constraints, is "insufficient to meet the moment."

The United States is the World Bank's largest shareholder.

In a separate statement, Yellen yesterday said that she applauded Biden's decision.

and demanded Tk 10 lakh.

Shapla took Tk 1.22 lakh from Nabi using mobile banking.

Police arrested Shapla, his son Yasin Arafat Tushar, and two others in connection with the case and suspended him.

On February 18, Shapla hired a helicopter to fly his daughter to a convention centre.

The groom also travelled by helicopter drawing public attention. When The Daily Star correspondent called Shapla, he claimed it cost him Tk 65,000 to hire the helicopter.

Abdullah Al Mamun, deputy manager of BCL Aviation Ltd which rented out the helicopter, told The Daily Star, "We charge Tk 75,000 per hour for any kind of usage."

## 5 lives lost in road crash

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Hossain, assistant sub-inspector of the hospital's police outpost.

Meanwhile, after the accident, agitated locals set fire to the bus, which firefighters later doused, said Abdul Jalil, assistant director of Bogura fire service station.

"Police seized the bus but the driver and his assistant fled. Police are trying to arrest them," said Abbas Ali, assistant sub-inspector of Koigari Police Outpost under Shajahanpur upazila.

Imran Hossain, son of Golam Rabbani Badsha, said, "My father went to Bogura town to buy clothes

for his store. He died on his way back."

Aminul Islam, a relative of Shahana and Keya, said, "The mother and her daughter were supposed to attend a religious programme in Bogura's Gabtoli area. But the tragic accident claimed their lives before they could reach their destination."

According to the local office of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), the fitness documents of the bus were up to date.

"But we have not yet confirmed whether the bus had a route permit to operate on this highway," said Aminul Islam, motor vehicle inspector of BRTA's Gaibandha office.

## Four victims

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where they were forced to con people over the internet.

They alleged that they had to bribe, through their families, Abdul Hadi, an administrative officer (labour wing) at Bangladesh embassy in Bangkok, for obtaining travel permits and necessary documents to be released.

A Bangladeshi in Cambodia known as "Lion Kamal" was also involved in the process, according to the victims.

Prosenjit and Ismail claimed that their relatives in Bangladesh had to pay around Tk 48,000 for each of them to two mobile banking accounts provided by Hadi and "Lion Kamal".

Foysal and Rubel claimed that their families sent Tk 16,500 and 16,320 respectively to a mobile banking account provided by Hadi.

On January 2, this newspaper also talked to Hadi in this regard. He denied the allegation but claimed that he had taken the money from the victims which was "embassy's service charge".

On January 14, this newspaper emailed the Bangladesh embassy in Bangkok requesting an official statement in this regard.

Two officials at the embassy contacted this correspondent over phone and said they would investigate the allegation.

After this, "Lion Kamal" contacted Prosenjit and Ismail and gave each of them Tk 50,000 back through a bank and mobile banking accounts.

"Lion Kamal had made us sign a statement that we [Prosenjit and Ismail] would not make any complaints against Abdul Hadi,"

Prosenjit told The Daily Star yesterday.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the statement from Prosenjit. It has also got two audio clips in which a voice, presumably of "Lion Kamal's", is heard instructing Ismail on how to write the statement.

Contacted, "Lion Kamal" said he returned the money on behalf of a man. When asked whether the man was Hadi, he declined to comment.

Foysal said, "One unidentified woman clad in a black burka along with three men came to my home and gave Tk 16,500 to my mother when I was away. She also requested my mother not to file any complaints."

Another victim Rubel received a phone call from an unknown number on January 23.

"A man asked me whether I had given money to Abdul Hadi. As I said yes, he said he will send the money and asked me not to file any complaints against Hadi," Rubel said, adding that he later got Tk 16,000 to his mobile banking account.

## One woman dies

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Greece and Cyprus, the report's author Jenny Cresswell told journalists.

Maternal deaths remain largely concentrated in the world's poorest regions and in conflict-affected countries.

Around 70 per cent of those deaths recorded in 2020 were in sub-Saharan Africa, where the rate is "136 times bigger" than in Australia and New Zealand, Cresswell said.

## Dhaka-Moscow ties

FROM PAGE 12  
Russian agency reported quoting the Russian foreign ministry.

"This step runs counter to the traditionally friendly character of bilateral relations and can have a negative effect on the prospects for our cooperation in various spheres."

Last week, the Russian Embassy in Dhaka told TASS that 69 Russian ships (sanctioned) had been barred from calling at Bangladesh ports.

However, according to the embassy, this step did not mean that Bangladesh had banned imports of Russian goods.

Later, Russian foreign ministry spokesperson Maria Zakharova said Bangladesh had made this decision under the threat of US secondary sanctions, according to a TASS report.

In January, Bangladesh told the Russian side that they could send any ship, except the sanctioned ones, carrying equipment for the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant.

Bangladesh hoped that Russia would now send non-sanctioned ships carrying the required materials.

## Life on Mars

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So far, state-of-the-art instruments onboard Nasa's Curiosity and Perseverance rovers have only identified low levels of simple organic molecules.

Scientists said these results raise questions about the limitations of current scientific equipment.

An international research team led by Dr Armando Azua-Bustos of the Astrobiology Centre in Spain tested versions of the instruments that are currently on Mars or due to be sent there in the near future.

These instruments were tested in Red Stone, which is located in the Atacama Desert in northern Chile.

This area is thought to bear a close resemblance to the conditions on Mars, and contains an abundance of hematite — an oxidised form of iron that gives Mars its famous red colour.

The researchers analysed samples gathered from the sedimentary fossil remains of a river delta located in the desert.

These deposits were thought to have formed under highly arid conditions about 160-100 million years ago and are geologically similar to the Jezero crater on Mars currently being studied by Perseverance.