

It has been a great feeling to watch the film receive praise and love. Also, yes, I am in the talks for a few more projects in Tollywood. However, they are yet to be finalised.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

The spectacular Shohel Mondol

SHARMIN JOYA

A versatile actor, who has brought to life every character he has donned, Shohel Mondol can be surely called one of the fastest rising artistes of the present era. With his on-screen presence, he has managed to grab the attention of the audience. After riding the wave of *Hawa* and its success, the actor has now returned with a new release, *Mayar Jonjal*. The film, which has been co-produced by Bangladesh and India, has been directed by prominent Indian filmmaker, Indranil Roychowdhury.

In *Mayar Jonjal* Shohel shares the screen with noted stars Aupek Karim and Ritwick Chakraborty.

Today, we caught up with the *Taqdeer* famed actor to learn about his experience of working on the film, his upcoming projects and much more.

Could you tell us about your experience of working in *Mayar Jonjal*?

I worked on this film during the start of my career. Back then, I was not a known face in the media. *Mayar Jonjal* would be my fourth project on the big screen. Through this film, I began a new journey by experiencing the opportunity of working in West Bengal.

'Mayar Jonjal' has gone houseful in theatres and has received a lot of appreciation from both sides of the border. Are you already

receiving offers for more Tollywood projects? It has been a great feeling to watch the film receive praise and love. Also, yes, I am in the talks for a few more projects in Tollywood. However, they are yet to be finalised.

The film was shot almost four years back. During this period, technology has vastly advanced. Do you feel that the film might look old on the screen?

I don't think so. It is true that technology has a big role to play, but the story and screenplay matter the most. For *Mayar Jonjal*, the story is very relevant to the present time and the audience will be able to connect. I do feel that, if I had taken on this movie now with all of my recent experience, I would have given an even better performance.

Recently, there has been a lot of protest about the import of Indian films. What are your thoughts on the matter?

Personally, I believe that in the context of globalisation—where we are so internet dependent—we cannot stop Hindi films from coming. Regardless of whether the films are imported, we are already consuming foreign productions. For the sake of saving cinema halls, we can definitely import foreign films. However, that should not hamper our local film industry. If local films suffer as a result of Indian films being imported, then how is this a logical decision?

I am not against the import of foreign films, but I want the relevant bodies to take the decision in a systematic manner, with proper rules and regulations in place—so that we have a level playing field.

Can you tell us about your upcoming projects?

I am currently shooting for the government-granted film, *Bonolota Sen*, directed by Masud Hasan Ujjal. Another film, *Shyama Kabbo*, directed by Badrul Anam Saud, is slated for release soon. Also, I have been in the talks with some OTT projects as well.



Coke Studio Bangla to release second song tomorrow

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT DESK

After the smashing success of *Murir Tin*, Coke Studio Bangla is releasing their second song, *Bonbibibi* on Thursday at 1 am.

It seems the song *Bonbibibi* will be about the myth of the same name, heard around the areas in Sundarbans. Rumor has it, Meghdol might be featured on this track.

Coke Studio Bangla had posted a poster of the song on their official Facebook page and wrote, "When the world sleeps and nature awakens, she comes silently with the fragrance of flowers."

After the successful launch of Coke Studio Bangla season I, the new season began its magical journey on February 14.

Priyanka Chopra pairs up with Richard Madden in 'Citadel' teaser



On Monday, Priyanka Chopra stunned her fans by releasing the first-look photos from her new series *Citadel*, which is executive produced by the Russo brothers. One of the photos that Priyanka shared on social media had a QR code that led to the *Citadel* teaser.

There is a QR code in the photo of actor Richard Madden's character, Mason Kane, looking at a screen that

contains every detail about Priyanka's character, Nadia Sinh. Scanning the QR code will take you to the series' secret teaser. Despite the fact that the teaser does not provide any major plot clues, it does hint that the series trailer will be released on March 1.

Citadel is a science fiction drama created by the Russo brothers.

NEWS

Probe allegations

FROM PAGE 16

against Kiron should not be declared illegal.

ACC chairman, its secretary and commissioner (investigation); secretary of the local government, rural development and cooperatives ministry; head of Bangladesh Financial Intelligence Unit; chief executive officer of GCC; and acting mayor Kiron have been made respondents.

The HC bench of Justice Md Nazrul Islam Talukder and Justice Khizir Hayat Lizu issued the order and rule, following a writ petition filed by one Nazrul Islam from Savar, and Zillur Rahman from Gazipur, seeking necessary directives.

They submitted the petition to the HC recently. It was based on a report, published in Bangla daily Bhorer Pata on August 21 last year, under the headline "Kironer Keramotite Behal Gazipur City Corporation (GCC at stake because of Kiron's magic)".

According to the report, Kiron has amassed a huge amount of properties through corruption and irregularities.

Lawyer Sarwar Ahmed appeared for the writ petitioners, while senior advocate Khurshid Alam Khan and Deputy Attorney General AKM Amin Uddin Manik represented the ACC and the state at the hearing.

Earlier on February 15, the same HC bench ordered the ACC to conclude its ongoing probe into the corruption allegations against suspended GCC mayor Mohammad Zahangir Alam in the next six months and to submit a report before it.

The ACC can take legal action against him (Zahangir) if it finds information and evidence in support of the allegations in the probe, the bench said.

Premature births

FROM PAGE 16

development of foetal organs and physiological processes.

It may be that nutrient transfer from the mother's blood across the placental barrier is impeded by exposure to airborne contaminants or simply the transfer of oxygen may be negatively affected.

This constrains foetal growth. The study was published in the Journal of Climate Change and Health.

Court asks for probe report

FROM PAGE 16

In the application, the PP said the complainant and five others had earlier given depositions before court and three of them mentioned the name of Ishtiaque Mahmud, brother-in-law of complainant Badiul Alam Majumdar, as the culprit.

The investigation officer, however, did not include Badiul Alam's name in the charge sheet and so further investigation is needed to identify the real culprits behind the attack, he said.

On January 20, 2021, after around two and a half years of the probe, Md

Abdur Rouf, inspector of the Detective Branch of police and investigation officer of the case, submitted the charge sheet to the court against nine local leaders and activists of Awami League and Chhatra League of Mohammadpur area.

On March 1 last year, the court framed charges against the nine—Firoz Mahmud, Naimul Hasan Rasel, Mir Amzad Hossain Akash, Sazu Islam, Razibul Islam Razu, Shahidul Alam Khan Kajol, Mozahid Azmi Tanna, Siam and Oli Ahmed Jony.

Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik (Shujan) Secretary Badiul Alam

Majumdar filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station on August 10, 2018, following the attack.

On August 4, 2018, the nine accused, along with some 15 to 20 unidentified people, gathered near the Iqbal Road residence of Badiul Alam and chased Bernicat's car, according to the probe report.

The accused then threw brick chips at it, the report added.

Later, the accused vandalised the house of the complainant and made death threats to his wife and son, according to the charge sheet.

Solar breakthrough paves

FROM PAGE 16

to realise this outside of a lab.

It opens the door to a host of new technologies, such as flexible, lightweight solar cells, or layered solar cells—known as tandems—that can be far more efficient than the solar harvesting technology used today in so-called solar farms, said Aram Amassian, a professor of materials science and engineering at North Carolina State University, who was involved in the discovery.

"There's interest in integrating perovskite materials into silicon solar cell technologies, which would improve their efficiency from 25 percent to 40 percent while also making use of existing infrastructure."

Despite being better at absorbing light than silicon, perovskite has proved too unstable to use within commercial solar cells.

The breakthrough centres on the way ions are channelled into defined pathways in perovskite materials in order to improve their stability and operational performance.

"We have not found a way to prevent

ions from moving through perovskite materials, but we have found that it is possible to steer these ions into a safe conduit that does not impair the material's structural integrity or performance," said Professor Amassian. "It's a big step forward."

A paper detailing the research, titled "A multiscale ion diffusion framework sheds light on the diffusion-stability-hysteresis nexus in metal halide perovskites", was published in the scientific journal Nature Materials on Monday.

70-yr-old fugitive convict

FROM PAGE 16

signed by Lt Col Arif Mohiuddin Ahmed, commanding officer of Rab-3.

Abu Muslim was one of the organisers of Jamaat-e-Islami's student wing Islami Chhatra Sangha in 1971, and an active member of Sundarganj Thana Jamaat-e-Islami, said the release.

He was also an active member of the Peace Committee and was involved in various criminal activities, including looting, in Gaibandha's Kamarjani area.

According to Rab sources, on October 9, 1971, due to previous enmity, local Peace Committee members, led by Abdur Rahim and Abu Muslim, along with members of the Pakistani army, attacked, looted and burned down the house of Ganesh Chandra Barman in Malibari village.

They then brutally tortured and killed Ganesh and his friend Akbar

Ali. In 2013, Anisur Rahman, the son of Akbar Ali, filed a case against Abu Muslim.

In 2014, the case was transferred to the International Criminal Tribunal, which sentenced him to death in 2017, the release added.

According to the Rab, Abu Muslim was holed up in his relative's house in Sundarganj from 2013 to 2015.

When an arrest warrant was issued in 2015, he went into hiding in Belkar Char, located on the banks of the Teesta River, where he earned a living as a day labourer.

Later in 2021, he fled to Dhaka and started living in a rented house in Savar's Ashulia area. He worked as a day labourer there as well, before becoming a home tutor.

In hiding, he used pseudonyms to keep his identity hidden.

Fearing arrest, he had been staying in the slum in Demra area since January, the release added.

White House gives federal agencies 30 days to enforce TikTok ban

AFP, Washington

The White House on Monday gave federal agencies 30 days to purge Chinese-owned video-snippet sharing app TikTok from all government-issued devices, setting a deadline to comply with a ban ordered by the US Congress.

Office of Management and Budget director Shalanda Young in a memorandum called on government agencies within 30 days to "remove and disallow installations" of the application on agency-owned or operated IT devices, and to "prohibit internet traffic" from such devices to the app.

Momen leaves for New Delhi

FROM PAGE 16

Blinken is also expected to join the G20 meet today. China's Foreign Minister Qin Gang and Russian FM Sergei Lavrov is also expected to attend the meeting.

The G20 foreign ministers' meeting will focus on strengthening multilateralism and deepening cooperation on food and energy security, sustainable development, counter-narcotics drive, global health, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and gender equality and women's empowerment.

India, holding the G20 presidency, has invited Bangladesh, Egypt, Mauritius, Netherlands, Nigeria, Oman, Singapore, Spain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as guest countries to its meetings and summit, according to the Ministry of External Affairs, India.

"We feel much honoured," Momen said about the invitation.

Momen said, in the meeting, Bangladesh will put forward its views and suggestions including finding

ways for stopping war in Ukraine and proper implementation of SDGs.

"We will present our views and suggestions. We want development in a peaceful way," he said.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has been invited to attend the 18th G20 Heads of State and Government Summit set to begin on September 9 in New Delhi.

Hasina paid a state visit to India from September 5 to 8 last year at the invitation of her Indian counterpart Narendra Modi.

Apart from the G20 leaders, Egyptian President Abdel Fattah Saeed Hussein Khalil El Sisi, Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte, Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari, Oman Head of State Sultan Haitham bin Tarik, Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, UAE President Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan have been invited to the G20 Summit.

AL leader beaten up

FROM PAGE 16

supporters on an easy bike. Speaking to journalists at the upazila health complex, Kibria said, "I was attacked by defeated Gharua UP chairman candidate Firozur Rahman Niru Khalifa when I reached near Sharifabad Bazar. Lawmaker Nixon Chowdhury supported Firozur Rahman in the UP polls last year."

He said the attackers hit him with a hammer and rods.

Contacted, Firozur denied the allegation of attacking the AL leader.

"When Kibria was returning home, my nephew Yuvraj asked him if he was returning from a meeting of Nixon Chowdhury. Incensed, Kibria verbally abused Nixon Chowdhury. This angered some locals who beat up Kibria, leaving him injured. I was not in Sharifabad Bazar area when the incident took place," he added.

Pranesh Chandra Pandit, health and family planning officer at the upazila health complex, said a bone in Kibria's left hand was broken.

Ziarul Islam, officer-in-charge of Bhanga Police Station, said no

complaint was filed in connection with the incident till 6:00pm yesterday.

Protesters storm stage at Taiwan massacre memorial

AFP, Taipei

Around a dozen demonstrators stormed a stage where Taipei's new mayor was speaking yesterday, calling him a murderer and demanding he apologise for the blood shed during a 1947 massacre in Taiwan.

Protesters were furious that Mayor Chiang Wan-an was hosting the memorial service because his purported great-grandfather, president Chiang Kai-shek, oversaw the violent suppression nearly eight decades ago.

Carrying a white banner with the words, "kneel and apologise", the protesters rushed towards Chiang, who turned his back on them while security guards swooped in and ushered the crowd away from the stage.