



PHOTOS: COURTESY

Scenes from the shoot of an Eid ‘Natok’

This scene features Apurba and Keya Payel. The director explains the scene to the two, telling them it is an emotional one, which might take a while to finish.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The Laboni Shooting House of Dhaka is quite famous amongst the entertainment industry, often graced by the presence of celebrities or crowded by shooting crews. This time, the location is occupied by a new production for this coming Eid-ul-Fitr.

Directed by Saikat Reza, the new tele-fiction pairs Ziaul Faruq Apurba and Keya Payel in the lead roles. Also starring in the project are Mili Basher, Wahida Mollick Jolly, and Rahmat Ullah, amongst many others.

Just as you enter the shooting house, one can see Apurba in the makeup room, having the finishing touches added to his look. Meanwhile, Mili Basher is sitting on the sofa, while Wahida Mollick is reading the script.

The director is standing beside Apurba, explaining a scene to him, where Apurba will go to the roof—with a look of anxiety on his

face, as if he is troubled by something—where he will walk around and mumble something to himself. Lastly, the actor is instructed to come down from the rooftop with a look of sadness on his face.

After Apurba's makeup is finished, the director, assistant director, and others take him to the rooftop and begin shooting the scene. A group of people get busy readying the lighting, while the director sits in front of the monitor, overseeing the shoot.

“Action,” shouts the director. Shooting begins and everyone gets busy. The character seems to come to life as soon as Apurba is in front of the camera—as his expression morphs into a look of anxiety.

Apurba strolls around the rooftop, going from one side to the other. His presence seems to elude a troubled vibe. After a few moments, he looks up to the sky before going down the stairs.

Soon, the scene ends, concluding with the director saying, “Good shot.”



Shakib Khan sues film producer Rahmat Ullah for extortion



Actor Shakib Khan filed a case with a Dhaka court against film producer Rahmat Ullah on charge of demanding 100,000 Australian Dollars as extortion. Following a hearing, Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Arafatul Rakib recorded Shakib's statement after taking the charges against the producer into cognisance.

The magistrate also summoned Rahmat Ullah to appear before it on April 26. The news was confirmed to The Daily Star by Dhaka Bar Association President, Mizanur Rahman Mamun.

Shilpa Shetty returns to Kannada cinema after 18 years



Although being a Karnataka native, Bollywood actress Shilpa Shetty Kundra has only appeared in a small number of Sandalwood movies. She made her Kannada debut with the Tamil film, **Mr Romeo** in 1996, after being a well-known figure in Bollywood. She will soon make her comeback to Kannada cinema with Dhruva Sarja's next movie **KD-The Devil**, also known as **KingDom-The Devil**, after a hiatus of 18 years.

Shilpa shared the film's poster, where she is seen in a retro look. While specifics are still being kept under wraps, the historical action entertainer is reported to be based on actual events that occurred in Bangalore in the 1970s. The movie will also star Sanjay Dutt and V Ravichandran, in addition to Druva Sarja as the lead.

Directed by Prem, **KD-The Devil**, is all set to release in Tamil, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi.

NEWS

4 firms to sell

FROM PAGE 12

not exceed Tk 200 at retail, because the production cost at large farms is Tk 135-140 even after the increase in the prices of feed.

For small farms, the production cost is Tk 150-160, it added. Abu Luthfe Fazle Rahim Khan, managing director of Aftab Bahumukhi Farms Ltd, said his company will follow the new rates even though it will incur losses.

Meanwhile, at a views-exchange discussion at the office of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), its president Jasim Uddin said the price of broiler chicken increased by Tk 100 in a month because the poultry industry people were taking advantage of the people.

He added that the government banned the import of broiler chicken, beef, and eggs to protect the local industry.

If the prices do not come down, the FBCCI will request the commerce ministry to allow the import of chicken and beef to keep the prices under control, he said.

At present, a kg of beef is sold for Tk 750-800.

Bogura judge

FROM PAGE 12

According to school rules, all students are supposed to clean their classrooms by turn, but the judge's daughter never complied it.

On Monday, it was her turn along with three other students. As she refused to sweep the classroom, the other three also declined to do the work in protest, said school sources.

On Monday night, the girl reportedly took to social media and wrote a post boasting that she was the daughter of a judge, and ridiculed the social status of other students.

The other three students took screenshots of her post and shared those in their Facebook group.

On Tuesday, the judge went to the school and asked the class teacher to call in the three students and their parents.

When they came to the school with their mothers, the judge threatened to file a cybercrime case against them, claiming that they wrote “derogatory words” on Facebook insulting her and her daughter.

The judge, in presence of teachers, also compelled the mother of one student to touch her feet and beg pardon for “insulting” her on social media.

BAU students ‘assault’

FROM PAGE 2

“When the proctor approached us, he inquired about the woman accompanying me. I informed him that she is my wife and also a student at this university. The proctor asked if we knew him. When we replied in the negative, he became agitated and began to behave rudely,” Shams claimed.

Later, a group of BAU students appeared at the scene and demanded that Shams and his family apologise to the proctor, Shams also said.

“As we refused, they assaulted us. We had to leave,” Shams said, adding that he later informed BINA Director General Mofazzol Islam about the incident. He also demanded a proper

investigation into the matter, Shams said.

When contacted, BAU Proctor Prof Azharul Islam stated, “I just questioned Shams to know about him and the woman with him as there is restriction on the movement of females on campus at night.”

He claimed that they refused to provide their identity. He also mentioned that later, some students who were nearby at the time of the incident, appeared at the scene.

“I did not know what happened next as I left the scene in my car,” the proctor said.

He added that he could not identify if the alleged students were members of Bangladesh Chhatra League.

JnU student moved

FROM PAGE 2

checkup [on March 15] upon the [law] ministry's instruction, but she refused to cooperate with the medical authorities.”

Apart from those two hours that she is allowed outside, Khadija spends the whole day inside the cell with two inmates keeping guard to ensure she does not self-harm, he added.

Khadija's family says she has kidney stones, for which she has chronic pain in her abdomen.

“It is because of her health that she was taken to the hospital for a checkup,” said Khadija's sister Sirajum Monira.

She denied the claims of Khadija being uncooperative with the medical authorities.

“She is being accused of mixing water with the urine sample she had to give ... That is why they sent her to the condemned cell.

“The day of her checkup, she was fasting and the jail authorities too did not give her anything to eat from 6:00am, when she was taken to hospital, to 4:00pm, when my mother met her and gave her some food.”

Khadija, whose father is a domestic worker in Kuwait, has been denied bail at least three times by a lower court and once by the High Court.

Much to the relief of her family, she was granted bail by the High Court on February 17 this year.

Their joy, however, was short-lived. Within a day, the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court stayed

her bail order — leaving the girl in jail again.

According to a forensic laboratory report prepared by the Criminal Investigation Department of police, the main issue was with her guest speaker's responses. However, there were no remarks about Khadija.

The cases accuse Khadija of “trying to cloud the existing political situation”, “involve the general public in anti-government activities”, and “impact the reputation of Bangladesh in the international world”.

Asked why a kidney patient was being kept in solitary confinement, jail superintendent Rahman claimed, “Her health is absolutely fine.”

Holy month

FROM PAGE 12

Ummah observes the month with due religious fervor to attain self-restraint, self-rectification and forgiveness, he said fasting plays a vital role in establishing sympathy, amity and brotherhood among all, including the rich and the poor.

In her message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said this holy month creates an opportunity of self-rectification through self-restraint.

“Let's be inspired by the teachings of the Ramadan and protect the holiness of the Ramadan, showing modesty, patience and restraint at all levels of life and shunning all forms of pleasure, hatred, merriment and conflict,” Hasina said.

Continued democracy key factor

FROM PAGE 12

country was halted several times after 1975.

“The democratic process could not continue smoothly, and there was no sustainable democratic process. As a result, Bangladesh could not march forward at its desired pace.”

The PM also raised question about the way of thinking of the rulers of that period (after 1975).

She said the sacrifices of the martyrs of Liberation War can't go in vain.

Hasina urged all to work unitedly to establish a developed and smart Bangladesh through implementing the long-term perspective plan.

“Bangladesh has witnessed desired development as the Awami League government has been working with a proper plan,” she said.

The premier noted that her government has been able to establish Bangladesh as a developing country in the golden jubilee year of the country's independence in 2021.

Hasina said that the poverty rate in the country has already dropped to 20 percent from over 40 percent.

“The nation would soon get a good news on further reduction of poverty as the collection of information and data is progressing.”

Talking about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war, the PM said her government is doing everything possible to ease people's sufferings.

On behalf of the award winners, icddr,b Senior Director Firdausi Qadri expressed her feelings.

Freedom fighter Colonel Shamsul Alam (retired), Lieutenant AG

Mohammad Khurshid (posthumous), Khwaja Nizamuddin Bhuiyan (posthumous), and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya received the Independence Award for their contributions to Bangladesh's independence and Liberation War.

Begum Nadira Jahan (Surma Zahid) and Firdausi Qadri received the award for their contributions to research and training.

Mohammad Moinuddin Ahmed (Selim Al Deen) was given the award posthumously for his contribution to literature.

Pabitra Mohan Dey and ASM Raqibul Hasan were recognised for their contributions to culture and sports respectively.

The Department of Fire Service and Civil Defence was awarded in the public service category.

DoE eases curbs

FROM PAGE 12

of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, said the new ECR is more elaborate and clearer on some issues than the previous one.

“However, there are some major flaws in it. I think those have been kept in it to accommodate the government's development narrative, which is not sensitive to environment,” she told The Daily Star.

Rizwana said she found no reason for re-categorising power plants.

“All power plants must be in the red category regardless of their production capacity. Hoping that power plants would comply with laws is surely an unreasonable expectation. The rules could have been stronger if the public grievances were redressed,” she observed.

Prof Kamruzzaman Majumder, chairman of the Department of Environmental Science at Stamford University, said that mitigative measures are stronger for businesses in the red category, but those in the orange category enjoy a less stringent regulation.

The down-gradation of certain power plants' category would lower the emission standard, he added.

He said the DoE itself is reducing its power through formulating such rules, which would harm its effort to conserve the environment.