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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Once upon a time, Mahfuz Ahmed ruled over TV screens. After a long hiatus, Mahfuz Ahmed is now back with a new film, **Prohelika**, opposite actress Shabnom Bubly. Directed by Chayanika Chowdhury, the film will soon be released in theatres.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Mahfuz Ahmed shared his experience of working on the film and more.

What is your reason for returning with ‘Prohelika’ after such a long hiatus?

I wanted to return with a project that would make the audience forget that I have been away from the screen for a long time. I was waiting for a good story and character, which I found in **Prohelika**. People will know why I had not returned for a while, after watching it. **Prohelika** is just the right film for me.

How much have you internalised the character, Mona?

After shooting the film, my character in the film, Mona, lived inside me for a long time. It was hard for me to get out of character. When I started the dubbing for the film, I was once

again involved with Mona. I even went abroad to get out of this character.

How was the experience of working with Chayanika Chowdhury?

From bringing me back on screen—or maybe even forcing me to get back after a long time—to waiting two and a half years just to do the film with me, it all happened because of her. **Prohelika** is the biggest gift for me, from Chayanika. The way she stuck with me and brought out the best in me, I will be forever grateful.

The audience will be the final judge about the kind of director Chayanika is. However, her storytelling is amazing. As a director, she did what was necessary for the story.

How was your experience with Bubly?

I have never worked with an actress as punctual as Bubly. She went above and beyond for her character. Bubly has an amazing sense of timing, punctuality, and dedication. I am impressed by her positive attitude.

What was your reason for staying away from the limelight?

I wanted to leave the showbiz world. I didn’t want the celebrity life. A star has to take a lot of pressure, which I don’t want. I only want to live a normal life. A star has to become someone else in front of the camera, which is something I didn’t want to do.

How was life before you were a star? Do you regret leaving it behind?

I grew up in the Jagatpur village of the Lakshmipur district. I still like to walk along the village path, wearing a lungi and I love to meet and talk with the people from the village. A school friend of mine still lives in the village, and is now a rickshaw puller.

When I became a star, he did not want to meet me anymore. However, I still go to his house and meet him. I don’t want to forget the life I left behind, I don’t want to lose it and that’s who I am. I still go to the village shop where I used to eat *jilapi*. I think a life that has no joy, is no life at all.



‘Ityadi’ brings Women’s National Teams for Eid special



On the occasion of the upcoming Eid, one of the most special episodes of **Ityadi** will be airing, highlighting the importance of patriotism. The Eid special of the show, **Desher Gaan**, will feature the voice of the wonderful Sabina Yasmin.

At the invitation of **Ityadi**, the current Bangladesh Women’s National Football Team, along with the Bangladesh Women’s National Cricket Team will be part of the filming with Sabina Yasmin.

The song has been written by renowned lyricist Mohammad Rafiquzzaman, while Akash Mahmud has composed the music.

Like every year, the **Ityadi** Eid special will be aired the day after Eid, on BTV and BTV world, simultaneously.

Filming of Kareena Kapoor Khan starrer ‘The Crew’ begins



Powerhouse actresses Kareena Kapoor Khan, Tabu, and Kriti Sanon will star together in **The Crew**. The project has started filming, the makers announced on Saturday. The film is produced by Rhea Kapoor and Ektaa R Kapoor.

It is described as an incredible laugh-riot and is set against the backdrop of the struggling airline business, according to the producers. It’s about three women who work hard and hustle to go ahead in life. But their fates bring them into some unexpected situations, and they become entangled in a web of lies.

The Crew marks the second collaboration between Ektaa and Rhea, after the success of the women-centric film, **Veere Di Wedding**.

NEWS

Asteroid
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“There is no chance of this ‘city killer’ striking Earth, but its close approach offers a great opportunity for observations,” the European Space Agency’s planetary defense chief Richard Moissl said in a statement.

Astronomers with the International Asteroid Warning Network see it as good practice for planetary defense if and when a dangerous asteroid heads our way, according to Nasa.

The Virtual Telescope Project will provide a live webcast of the close approach.

The asteroid won’t be back our way again until 2026. Although there initially seemed to be a slight chance it might strike Earth then, scientists have since ruled that out.

BCL leader
FROM PAGE 12

Tamjidul Rashid Chowdhury, president of Faridpur district unit BCL president, said an organisational action will be taken in this regard after investigating the matter.

Yesterday, police detained the BCL leader from municipality area for quizzing him.

Tigers’ T20
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Chasing the revised target of 104 from eight overs, Ireland ended up on 81 for five. Pacer Taskin Ahmed registered his career-best bowling figures of four for 16 from his two overs which is also the third-best bowling figure by a Bangladeshi pacer in the format.

The tall seamer bagged three Irish wickets in the fourth over to break the backbone of the visitors’ top order as Taskin continued to impress with his consistency in the Tigers’ growing fast bowling unit.

Earlier, Liton Das and Rony Talukdar gave Bangladesh a blistering start after the Tigers were sent to bat on a gloomy day. The hosts scored a total of 81 runs in the Powerplay – the highest for Bangladesh in the first six overs in T20Is.

Rony smashed his maiden T20I fifty, scoring a 38-ball 67-run knock that included three sixes and seven fours, while Liton was dismissed after a 23-ball 47 to lay the foundation for a big total.

2 nurses ‘sexually harassed’
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Bazar Sadar upazila on January 7.

“Dr Mahbubur and Dr Titu had arranged for our stay at a dormitory of Bangladesh Medical Association that night, saying many of our colleagues would also be there. But when we got there, we found we were the only ones staying over.”

“A little while later, Dr Titu called and said he and the civil surgeon would soon be coming to our room. As we didn’t want to be alone with them, we fled the dorm right away.

“Later, I got another call from Dr Titu. He said the civil surgeon was very angry because we left without meeting them.”

On January 30, the day the allegations came to light, Bangladesh Nurses Association and Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association issued statements, condemning “the acts of sexual harassment committed by the officials using their position of authority.”

They also demanded the health ministry initiate an impartial investigation into the harassment allegations and remove the accused from their duties within 48 hours.

FORCED TO ST MARTIN’S

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Hena Parvin, nursing supervisor at the Teknaf Upazila Health Complex, said she wanted a written order from Dr Titu when he asked on January 24 for the nurses to go to the island.

“However, he threatened me saying it was a direct order from the civil surgeon. I had no alternative but to comply,” she claimed.

According to the complaint, after lunch on January 25, Dr Titu pressured the two nurses to go to the Parabar Beach Resort on the island, where the civil surgeon was staying.

“When we arrived, Dr Titu asked everyone there to leave except for us. At one stage, he started making lewd suggestions to us to entertain the civil surgeon and forced us to enter the latter’s room,” the complaint read.

The nurses left the place saying they needed to return to the hospital. The civil surgeon asked them to

come back in the evening (to join the party).

“When we went there in the evening as instructed, we found the civil surgeon and Dr Titu dancing and singing. When we tried to leave, Dr Titu got in the way. He grabbed one of us and said ‘you are here to entertain the civil surgeon’. He tried to force us to dance with the civil surgeon. But we managed to avoid it and leave the place,” the complaint read.

In the complaint submitted to the health ministry, the nurses also mentioned that they had audio and video clips of the incident.

The Daily Star has the video footage of the incident.

Contacted, Dr Titu Chandra Das said the allegations against him were baseless and intended to tarnish his reputation.

“As there was no nurse on the island, the civil surgeon wanted a nurse and a midwife to attend to the patients there. Why should I force them to go there? It was the upazila health and family planning officer of Teknaf who ordered them to go there,” Titu claimed.

However, Dr Ali Ahsan, the then upazila health and family planning officer of Teknaf, said the nurses did not go to St Martin’s Island on his orders. “They had to go there on the order of Dr Mahbubur and Dr Titu. And I was powerless to do anything about it.”

Moreover, Dr Ali said he has lately been transferred to Patuakhali as he did not take departmental action against the nurses upon Dr Mahbubur’s order.

When queried, Cox’s Bazar Civil Surgeon Mahbubur Rahman claimed he was unaware of any complaints lodged against him.

He also denied inviting any nurses to his room when he stayed at the Parabar Beach Resort on the night of January 25.

Md Saidur Rahman, additional secretary (administration) at Health Services Division of the health ministry, said they had received the complaints and would take necessary action after an investigation.

Avdiivka
FROM PAGE 12

Two people were killed and 32 wounded yesterday after Russian forces fired two S 300 missiles at the eastern Ukrainian city of Sloviansk northwest of Bakhmut, according to regional governor Pavlo Kyrylenko.

President Volodymyr Zelensky posted a video of smouldering debris and vowed that “Ukraine will not forgive” such attacks. Moscow denies targeting civilians.

Zelensky visited the southeastern Zaporizhzhia region yesterday, his third trip to the front line in less than a week. He awarded soldiers and discussed nuclear safety with International Atomic Energy Agency chief Rafael Grossi, who also travelled to the area, home to Europe’s biggest nuclear power plant, which has been occupied by Russian forces for the past year.

Parliament
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over comments made by Gandhi in Britain in early March that Indian democracy is “under attack”.

Opposition lawmakers from different parties also staged protests in New Delhi yesterday, the latest in a series of recent demonstrations.

Piyush Goyal, trade minister and a member of Modi’s ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), yesterday accused the opposition of “cheap politics” and “trying to mislead people”.

Gandhi “has no right to consider himself above the law of the country”, Goyal told reporters.

Gandhi, 52, is the leading face of the opposition Congress party, once the dominant force of Indian politics, and is the scion of India’s most famous political dynasty.

But Congress has for years been repeatedly crushed in elections by Modi’s BJP and its nationalist appeals to India’s Hindu majority.

JP will take part
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organisational programmes after the Ramadan.

She added that the party would be strengthened if dedicated leaders and activists and old and new leadership worked together.

Raushan said the Bangladeshes achieved independence at the call of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and after overcoming many hurdles, Bangladesh is now established as a developing country in the world, she added.

Sonamasjid land
FROM PAGE 12

28.81 tonnes of goods were imported and 0.20 tonnes exported through the port in last fiscal year. The volume of goods being carried through Sonamasjid is the fourth highest among the 12 land ports operating in the country.

Besides, there are several archeological sites, including Chhoto Sona Masjid (mosque) in the area. But tourism there has not flourished due to the absence of a rail link. Moreover, the area is famous for mango production and rail communication will help transport the fruit.

BR sources said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, while visiting Chapainawabganj in May 2015, had announced that her government would build a new rail line to bring Sonamasjid under the rail network. Local lawmaker Abdul Wadud later requested BR to carry out the feasibility study for it.

The study was completed by BR last year, they added.

Apart from 36.74km main line, the authority has to build 12.26km loop and siding lines, documents show.

There will be five stations for the new line – Chapainawabganj Bypass,

Naya Nawbhanga, Shibganj, Kansat and Sonamasjid.

Additionally, there will be three major bridges, 39 RCC box culverts and 4.53km viaduct. The authority has to acquire 527.09 acres of land for the new line.

Of the estimated cost (Tk 6,114.48 crore), Tk 4,250.56 crore is expected to come from foreign funds, while the rest is to be paid by the government.

A BR official said the nearest rail line in the Indian side from Sonamasjid land port is around 12km from the border.

“If Indian Railway takes initiative to expand it towards the Bangladesh border, Sonamasjid and Mahadipur of West Bengal’s Maldah can be another railway interchange between the two neighbouring countries,” he said.

Currently five railway interchanges between the two countries are in operation – Darshana (Bangladesh)-Gede (India), Benapole (Bangladesh)-Petrapole (India), Rohanpur (Bangladesh)-Singhabad (India), Birol (Bangladesh)-Radhikapur (India), and Chilahati (Bangladesh)-Haldibari (India).

Rohanpur is situated in Chapainawabganj.

PM slams BNP’s call

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the 53rd Independence and National Day, at the capital’s Bangabandhu International Conference Centre.

Hasina, also the AL president, urged the people to remain alert to any move against the country’s development.

She said “Khaleda Zia had shot dead” 17 labourers in the month of Ramadan for waging a movement demanding hike in salaries.

“How will those who shot people dead in Ramadan show respect to this month? So, they have called for a movement. They have no feeling for Ramadan and over the sufferings of the people”

On the contrary, the AL has decided not to hold any iftar party and instead, it would distribute money and food among the ordinary people to ease their sufferings, she added.

The AL chief came down heavily on the BNP leaders and some so-called intellectuals for not seeing democracy and development in the country despite the fact that the world community cannot but show

respect to Bangladesh after seeing its massive development.

She said Bangladesh has achieved huge development in the last 14 years since 2009 due to her successive government’s tireless efforts and continued democratic process.

The PM called upon the people to go ahead with the trust and confidence that the AL has achieved through the massive development for the welfare of the country and its people.

Referring to propaganda against the AL and the government by the BNP-Jamaat, the PM called upon the people not to be misled by any falsehood.

Hasina said there are many international powers alongside some so-called local intellectuals who don’t like to see democracy and development continue in Bangladesh.

Describing various measures taken for the overall development of the country, she said her government has made significant development in every sector such as infrastructure, education, health, electricity, agriculture, ICT, trade and commerce.