

MEET RAMZAN MIAH

Barbie's Bangladeshi actor

RAKSHANDA RAHMAN MISHA



"I can't say much about the film as it's all a secret, but being on set with Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, let's just say you are grateful to be there for every moment."

Recently, Warner Bros released the official trailer of *Barbie*, and fans loved it. Ramzan Miah, a British Bangladeshi actor, will be playing a South Asian Ken doll and will be showing off his dance moves from one of its peppy tracks, which can be seen in the trailer.

Previously, the actor has worked in super hit movies and shows including *Aladdin*, *Enola Holmes 2* and *Eternals*.

The Daily Star contacted the actor to know more about his *Barbie* project and what attracted him to acting.

What made you choose acting?

I started acting in Bengali drama. I would say that my foundation of work started in the UK, when I graduated from my performing arts school in 2016. There, I began to audition for different roles in TV, commercials, and films. From there on, my first TV series was *SAS Rogue Heroes*, and afterwards, I had the opportunity to work with Martin Freeman and Paul Whitehouse in *Ghost Stories* and Will Smith and Naomi Scott in *Aladdin*.

How does it feel to become the first South Asian Ken doll in the 'Barbie' movie?

It's refreshing, to be honest, everyone wants to feel represented - South Asians are significantly under-represented. However, I am even more grateful and proud to be Bangladeshi, and that's more powerful to me - as more people can hopefully take this opportunity to feel represented in our community.

Can you tell us a bit about your character? How was it working with Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling?

I can't say much about the film as it's all a secret, but being on set with Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, let's just say you are grateful to be there for every moment. Being a small part of this process has been a highlight of my career.

How did you prepare yourself for the role?

The casting started in January, and then we began to prepare ourselves for the film in February, for three months. All of the Kens had to train and do stunt work, and there's also a dance number which you can see in the trailer, so it's all exciting to be part of the *Barbie* world.

Do you have any plans on working in Bangladeshi projects?

Yes, of course - being Bangladeshi is part of my identity, so it would be amazing to work there; it would be great to do an English movie/series in Bangladesh. I would love to collaborate with my Bangladeshi directors.



PHOTO: COURTESY



Amid death threats, Salman Khan buys a bulletproof SUV

Bollywood actor Salman Khan has received many death threats from Lawrence Bishnoi and his crew over the last few months. In addition to receiving protection from the Indian police, the actor is also taking precautions for his personal safety.

He just bought a bulletproof Nissan Patrol SUV to bolster his security. Online reports claim that the actor drove his brand-new vehicle to a recent Nita Mukesh Ambani Culture Center event in Mumbai.

Khan previously drove a bulletproof Land Cruiser LC200. However, it appears to have shifted to a Nissan Patrol SUV. The actor specifically imported this car because it isn't yet accessible in Indian markets.

Pori Moni starrer 'Maa' to release on May 19



Dhallywood actress Pori Moni starrer, Liberation War-based film *Maa*, directed by Aranya Anwar, is all set to be released on May 19.

A press conference was held on Saturday to unveil the promo and poster of the film. The cast and crew of the film, including Pori Moni and Sariful Razz were present at the event.

The story of the film is set in the background of our Liberation War in 1971. The feeling of loss and desperation of a mother, when her 7-month-old baby is declared dead, will be portrayed in the film.

The film also stars Azad Abul Kalam, Sazu Khadem, Farzana Chabi and Shahadat Hossain, among others.

NEWS

Democracy, human rights

FROM PAGE 12
to Myanmar, and promote regional security through UN peacekeeping operations.

On April 4 last year, Blinken met Momen to celebrate and reflect on the 50th anniversary of Bangladesh-US relations.

They discussed the "tremendous economic potential" of the relationship and reflected on the ways the two countries collaborated over the last half century - including in growing people-to-people ties with vibrant Fulbright exchanges.

Blinken reaffirmed the importance of protecting human rights, the rule of law, and freedom of religion as the basis for safe and prosperous democratic societies.

Talking to reporters on Wednesday, Momen said, "I'd say we're lucky because the American secretary of state doesn't give invitations frequently. We got three in a row. America is paying much attention to our journey on the highway of development."

Momen said the US is the only country which provided a large number of vaccines to Bangladesh for free during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The US helped Bangladesh manage Covid very efficiently, he added.

"They even supported us the most after the Rohingya influx. Other countries helped us as well. I'll express our gratitude when I meet him [Blinken]," Momen said.

Rana Plaza owner's bail

FROM PAGE 12
for the state during the hearing, told reporters.

On April 24, 2013, the nine-storey Rana Plaza caved in killing at least 1,135 people and injuring more than 2,500 others, in what was one of the worst industrial disasters in the nation's history. Wali Ashraf, sub-inspector of Savar Police Station, lodged the murder case against Sohel, his father and several others on the same day.

Rana had extended the Rana Plaza without taking approval from the Rajdhani Unnayan Karttripakkha (Rajuk), he said, adding that the tragedy has damaged the image of the country's garments sector internationally.

Besides, some co-accused of the case made confessional statements before the magistrate involving Rana, Bappi added.

Earlier in the day, the state filed the petition with the Appellate Division through the attorney general's office seeking a stay order on the HC verdict of bail.

On April 6, the HC granted bail to Rana in the case following a bail petition filed by him.

His lawyer Qamrul told The Daily Star that day that his client has been suffering in jail for 10 years in the case.

There are 594 witnesses in this case, but the trial court has recorded statements from only 35 in the last 10 years, he added.

Journo beaten up

FROM PAGE 12
Sheela's car driver, bodyguard and some supporters of Siddiqur started beating him and snatched his mobile phone and money, Roni alleged.

Hearing his screams, locals came and took him to Bakshiganj Health Complex where he was undergoing treatment.

Contacted, Zilla Parishad member Sheela Sarwar denied all allegations saying that journalist Roni had made

her video viral on social media after editing.

She called Roni to know about the video posted on his Facebook.

Echoing Sheela, Siddiqur also said that his supporters did not assault Roni.

Sohel Rana, officer-in-Charge of Bakshiganj Police Station, said, "We have not received any complaint. We came to know about the matter from a social media post."

Heatwave sweeps

FROM PAGE 2
Water scarcity is also becoming a pressing issue in the coastal areas of Khulna, adding to the suffering of the people.

Ramadan has coincided with the intense heat, which is adding to the struggles of low-income workers.

Md Anisul, a day labourer, said, "I work for Tk 500 per day and find it difficult to work in the extremely hot weather."

Rickshaw driver Majnu said he is also facing similar difficulties.

His rickshaw does not have a battery and needs to be driven using foot pedals, which is very difficult to do in the scorching heat.

Despite this, he still has to take his rickshaw out to earn a living and provide for his family.

The senior meteorologist at the Khulna Meteorological Office, Amirul Azad, said that the heat will persist for the next 3-4 days.

With the intense heat causing such discomfort, many people are flocking to electronic and hand-fan shops in the city to find some relief.

Shams gets bail

FROM PAGE 12
juxtaposed against a photo of an adolescent boy.

Sensing that people might assume the quote was the adolescent boy's, Prothom Alo took down the card within 17 minutes.

Around 4:00am on March 29, Shams was detained from his home in Savar. His whereabouts were unknown until police took him to the court premises around 30 hours later.

On March 30, a court rejected his petition for bail and sent him to jail. He walked out of jail five days later.

Prothom Alo Editor and Publisher Matiur Rahman, an unnamed photographer and unnamed others were also accused in one of the cases.

On April 2, the High Court bench of Justice Mustafa Zaman Islam and Justice Md Aminul Islam granted Matiur Rahman anticipatory bail for six weeks and asked him to show up at the metropolitan sessions judge's court in Dhaka after six weeks to seek fresh bail.

It's tantamount to assault on press freedom

FROM PAGE 1
The signatories are Dhaka University former teacher Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque, DU Professor Emeritus Serajul Islam Chowdhury, former DU VC Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, senior lawyer Zi Khan Panna, activist Farida Akhter, economist Anu Muhammad, Shujan Secretary Badiul Alam Majumdar, activist Khushi Kabir, TIB Executive Director Itteharuzzaman, DU Prof Asif Nazrul, lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan, DU Prof Mohammad Tanzimuddin Khan, film director Nurul Islam Atik, JU Prof Manosh Chowdhury, researcher Saydia Gulrukh, DU teacher Moshahida Sultana, RU Prof Saleh Hasan Naqib, Brac University teacher Mahboob Hossain, JU Prof Kamrul Ahsan, JU Prof Jamal Uddin, RU Prof Itteharul Alam Masud, CU Prof SM Nasrul Quadir, CU teacher Maidul Islam, researcher Monjure Khoda Torik, US's Framingham State University teacher Jahed Arman; lawyer Mohshin Rashid, Cumilla University teacher Mutasim Billah, poet Tokon Thakoor, writer Chanchal Ashraf, artist Arup Rahee, politician Firoz Ahmed, director Ashfaq Nipun, director Shamol Shishir, publisher Dipankar Das, North South University teacher Saimum Parvez, fact-checker Qadruddin Shishir, activist Kallol Mustafa, activist

Parvez Alam, writer Faham Abdus Salam, politician Joly Talukdar, writer Afsana Begum, writer Zia Hasan; activist Baki Billah, writer Luna Rushdi, writer Alvi Ahmed, ALRD Executive Director Shamsul Huda, writer Umme Farhana, women rights activist Mahfuza Mala, journalist Bithy Soptorshi, writer Hamim Kamrul Haque, poet Salehin Shipra, senior journalist Masood Kamal, translator GH Habib, director, Narigrantha Prabantana Sayyida Akhter, film director Prosun Rahman, poet Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, columnist Dhrubo Sadiq, JU teacher Snigdha Rezwana, JNU teacher Fatama Sultana Suvara, poet Muiz Mahfuz, writer Gazi Tanzia, writer Papri Rahman, singer Amal Akash, writer Mahbob Morshed, writer Salah Uddin Shuvo, publisher Mahbob Rahman, writer Ahsan Mahmud, artist Krishnokoli Islam, painter AH Chanchal, Supreme Court lawyers Barrister Jishan Mohsin, Nur Arshad Siddique, Tajul Islam and Barrister Zubair Ahmed Bhuiyan; lawyer Barrister Asaduzzaman Fuad, former National Press Club president Kamal Uddin Sabuj, writer Syed Abdal Ahmed, former National Press Club general secretary Elias Khan, Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists President M Abdullah, Dhaka Union of Journalists General

Secretary Shahidul Islam, organiser Zafor Sadiq, human rights researcher Rozyna Begum, expert on Democratic Governance, Human Rights & Geopolitics in the South Asia region Sultan Mohammed Zakaria, Barrister Aneek R Haque, human rights activist Rezaur Rahman Lenin, writer Dilshana Parul, organiser Ariful Islam Adib, Peshajibi Adhikar Parishad Convener Zafor Mahmud, women's organiser Nasreen Sultana Mily, activist Nusrat jahan, engineer Faiz Ahmad Taiyeb, writer Maruf Mallick, Poet Shawkat Hossain, columnist Arshad Siddiqui, writer Rabiul Karim Mridul, writer Zakaria Polash, writer Shohel Rana, poet Shimul Salahuddin, activist Tuhin Khan, writer Ferdous Ara Rumi, poet Mahbob Aziz, journalist Faruk Wasif, former diplomat Saquib Ali, activist Sahul Ahmed, film maker Zayed Siddiki, researcher ATM Golam Kibria, writer Rakkhal Raha, writer Tonmoy Imran, prose writer Wasi Ahmed, film maker Khandaker Sumon, DU teacher Mohammad Azam, lawyer Nabayon Ahmed, poet Razu Alauddin, actress Bonna Mirza, former BFJU secretary general MA Aziz, Prof Khaliqzaman Elias, poet Ranak Zaman, poet Bayazid Bastami, writer Helal Mohiuddin and translator Raushan Jamil.

Youths account for 28pc

FROM PAGE 12
highest population: 3.41 crore. This accounts for 20.13 percent of the total population. Rajshahi division accounts for 12.24 percent of the total population.

Of the total population, 31.66 percent live in urban areas and the rest in rural areas.

Referring to the earlier census reports, Sen said urbanisation was

faster before.

The latest census shows the pace of urbanisation slowed in the last ten years.

In developed countries, 40 percent of the total population lives in the urban areas, he said, adding that the ratio is still low in Bangladesh though it is graduating to the developing country bracket.

"Policymakers should find out the

reason behind this," Sen added.

There has been significant development in the rural areas, said Shamsul Alam, the state minister for planning.

"Urban facilities are available in rural areas. There are English medium schools in villages," he added.

BBS Director General Matiar Rahman and Project Director Dildar Hossain also spoke among others.

Trial in Mitu murder case

FROM PAGE 12
Court against the framing of charges. Seeking time, they appealed to the court to begin recording testimonies after Eid.

The court declined and ordered Mosharraf's testimony be recorded.

Speaking to this newspaper, Mitu's father said, "I informed the court about Babul in details - how he

beat up my daughter after she learnt about his illicit relationship."

On March 13, charges were framed against Babul and six others in the murder case.

The other accused are Kamrul Islam Musa, Ehteshamul Haque Bhola alias Haniful Haque, Motaleb Mia Wasim, Md Anwar Hossain, Md Khairul Islam Kalu, and Md

Shahjahan Mia. Bhola is now out on bail while Musa is absconding.

On June 5, 2016, Mitu was stabbed and shot dead when she was walking her son to his school bus stop at the port city's GEC intersection.

On June 6, 2016, Babul filed a case with Panchlaish Police Station. Following an investigation, PBI said Babul plotted his wife's murder.