



‘I never said no to any films’

MISHA SAWDAGAR

PHOTOS: SHAHREAR KABIR HEEMEL

“There are a lot of memories in my career. Once, I had a fatal accident while acting. Some even thought that I was dead, but the Almighty saved me. I continued shooting even when my ligament was torn, because I didn’t want to hamper the schedule of the film.”

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Misha Sawdagar is often considered to be one of the iconic villains of Dhallywood. He proved his acting prowess with his brilliant performances over three decades. The actor has worked in over 800 films during his eventful career and won three National Film Awards. Twice in his career, he was also president of the Bangladesh Film Artists Association. This upcoming Eid, three of his films—*Kill Him*, *Leader Amic Bangladesh* and *Prem Pritir Bandhan*—will be released in theaters. In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, the talented actor reflected on his journey in showbiz and much more. **How has this three-decade journey been so far?** In my opinion, the path of art is never easy. I have acted in so many films in my career. There were times when I was shooting all day and night. Back then, I couldn’t even spend time



Do you have any bad memories over your career? There are a lot of memories in my career. Once, I had a fatal accident while acting. Some even thought that I was dead, but the Almighty saved me. I continued shooting even when my ligament was torn, because I didn’t want to hamper the schedule of the film. As I have back pain, I feel hurt whenever I am in action films, but I still love doing them. There was a hanging scene in the film, *Protigga*. I had never played such a role before. I almost died while doing the execution scene. At one point, I strangled myself in that scene,

but the Almighty saved me. Everyone thought I died that day. Even then, I didn’t stop acting because I loved it. While shooting for the film, *Amar Praner Shami*, my hands and legs were hurt. I was in tears due to the pain, but I still didn’t leave the shooting set. That’s how I have been acting for years and years, without taking any breaks. **When did you find time for your family?** My heart aches whenever I think about the fact that I didn’t get to spend a lot of quality time with my elder son. I don’t know how he grew up so fast. He is currently studying at an American university. I was so busy with shooting that I used to return home and he would be asleep. Our time schedules never matched. Sometimes I was abroad, shooting films. My wife was so helpful during those times. She manages my whole family. **How important has your wife been to your success?** She has made an enormous contribution to my life. We had a love marriage. Now, we have two sons. The elder one, named Hasan Mohammad Walid, is now in America finishing his studies, and the younger one is a student. We are very happy together.

Apu, Shariar Nazim Joy pair up for film ‘Shorge’ Dhallywood actor Apu Biswas is currently gearing up for the release of her films. Amidst this, she has signed up for another film, *Shorge*, directed by Shariar Nazim Joy. Besides directing the film, Joy will also be acting opposite Apu in the project. According to the director, the film is not hero-heroine based, rather, it is a story-based film where various social issues will be portrayed, which we don’t normally notice. Joy has plans to screen the film in different local and international platforms. Earlier, Apu worked in the Shahriar Nazim Joy directorial, *Priyo Komola*, in 2021.



‘Faraaz’ can’t be screened in Bangladesh: Ministry of Information and Broadcasting



While it has recently been reported that a few Bollywood films will be approved for import in Bangladesh, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has now sent a notice that *Faraaz*—a Bollywood film about the Holey Artisan attack on July 1, 2016—will not be allowed to screen in Bangladesh. The notice was issued in a circular signed by Md Shahinoor Miah, Chief Information Officer, Press Information Department, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting on Monday. In the circular, it is stated that the High Court has directed that *Faraaz* should not be made available on Netflix, Amazon Prime, other online platforms, television channels and film screenings in Bangladesh.

NEWS

Govt makes U-turn

FROM PAGE 1 urea, 16 lakh tonnes of DAP, 7.5 lakh tonnes of TSP and 9 lakh tonnes of MOP. Abdus Salam, a Boro farmer in Malanchi village of Pabna, said minimum 50kg of fertiliser is needed while planting crop on one bigha of land and another 40 to 50kg during the rest of the cultivation. “The fertiliser price is now up by Tk 5 per kg, but we will have to buy each kg at a price of Tk 7 to Tk 8 higher. The production cost on one bigha of land will increase by Tk 1,000 to Tk 1,200,” he added. Tarani Chandra Sarkar, a farmer of Narayanpur village in Nawabganj upazila of Dinajpur, is cultivating maize. “Still, I have to apply around 150kg fertiliser on the maize land. If the price increases by Tk 5 per kg, I will need another Tk 750,” he said. Quazi Shahabuddin, former director general of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS), said the government has to increase the fertiliser prices in line with the international market. “Otherwise, the government would need to increase the subsidy. There is a limit of providing subsidy,” he said. “My personal opinion is if I had resources, I would increase the subsidy rather than the price. If you do a comparative analysis, you will see farmers are being jailed for defaulting Tk 1,000 loan but there is no action against big loan defaulters. This is unfair.” Replying to a question, he suggested the government carry out survey to monitor the rise in production cost. Shahabuddin also said the farmers will pass on the burden of extra

expenditure to the consumers by charging high prices for the produce. “It will be fair if farmers pass on the burden to millers instead of consumers,” he said. Distinguished Fellow of Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) Mustafizur Rahman said farmers’ interests, the cost of production along with the pressure of subsidy, and government expenditure need to be considered. Compared to the increase of price of agriculture products, the rise of fertiliser price is not much. “Since the price of agricultural products has increased, I think farmers will be able to absorb the pressure,” he said. He suggested readjusting the price when there will be a fall in the fertiliser price in the international market. Talking to the media yesterday, Planning Minister MA Mannan said the production cost will surely go up after the rise in fertiliser prices. At the same event, State Minister for Planning Ministry Shamsul Alam said it will not have any impact on inflation because if the production increases, the fertiliser price hike will be adjusted. Meanwhile, Communist Party of Bangladesh has vehemently protested the price hike of fertiliser. Terming it an anti-people decision, the CPB said the government should have increased subsidy to ensure food security. But the government has increased the price instead for the benefit of middlemen and businessmen. It will pose threat to the country’s agricultural sector, said the left party in a statement. [Our Pabna and Dinajpur correspondents contributed to this report]

Tk 303cr lost

FROM PAGE 12 purchase price. The probe body said the fire broke out in an embroidery factory on the second floor of Adarsha unit of Bangabazar Shopping Complex. Eight security members and an electrician used to live on the roof of the Adarsha unit. Cigarette butts from the roof might have fallen on the second floor and goods in the embroidery factory caught fire. Apart from this, the fire could have also ignited from a burning mosquito repellent coil in the place where the security personnel stayed, the investigators said. The probe committee recommended constructing concrete buildings for all markets with adequate fire

extinguishers, underground water reservoirs and fire hydrants. It also suggested protecting all water bodies under the city corporations. Meanwhile, shop owners of Bangabazar Shopping Complex can start their business in makeshift shops from today. The DSCC has already finished clearing the debris from the site. At a press conference yesterday, Zahurul Islam, general secretary of Bangabazar Complex Shop Owners’ Association, said Tk 2.12 crore has been deposited in the fund for the affected traders till Monday. “Hopefully, a big donation will come from the prime minister. In all, this money will be distributed among the traders,” he added.

C-sections

FROM PAGE 12 indicators to guide policies and programmes aimed at improving the people’s health and well-being. The findings highlight significant improvements needed in maternal and child healthcare over the past five years. One of the achievements highlighted in the 2022 survey was the decline in the childhood mortality rate. The under-5 mortality rate decreased from 43 to 31 per 1,000 live births, and neonatal mortality rate declined from 27/1,000 to 20/1,000 live births between 2017 and 2022, reflecting a commendable 12 percent decrease. This decline can be attributed to increased access to quality health services, including facility deliveries and skilled birth attendance. The BDHS 2022 also showed a decrease in stunting among children under five – from 31 percent to 24 percent between 2017 and 2022, indicating improvements in child nutrition. However, the rate of underweight children remained unchanged at 22 percent, highlighting the need for continued efforts to address malnutrition. The survey also revealed positive trends in facility deliveries, with an increase from 51 percent in 2017 to 65 in 2022. Furthermore, the survey showed an improvement in equity in the use of facilities for delivery care among different economic groups. Some 88 percent of pregnant women are also receiving at least one antenatal care session from a trained provider – up from 2017’s 82 percent. However, the proportion of women receiving ANC4+ (four sessions of antenatal care) declined from 47 percent in 2017 to 41, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the survey, the Total Fertility Rate (TFR) – the average number of children a woman would have by the end of her childbearing age – has remained static at 2.3 as same as the TFRs in the previous three BDHS.

Commander

FROM PAGE 12 in four murder cases, an APBn official told The Daily Star. Three suspected Arsa members were also arrested and a firearm and two bullets were recovered from the spot, said a statement signed by Md Faruk Ahmed, assistant superintendent of police (media) of APBn-8. The arrestees are Mohammad Taher, 45; Jamal Hossain, 20; and Liakat Ali, 25. All of them are residents of Camp-19 in Ukhiya. Two APBn members were injured in the “gunfight”, said the statement.

12 parties picked for registration

FROM PAGE 1 Bangladesh People’s Party (BPP), Democratic Party, and Bangladesh Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP). The registration of the political parties will be finalised by June, EC Secretary Jahangir Alam said yesterday. The secretary said in the first stage, a committee concerned recommended cancellation of applications of 14 out of 93 parties that sought registration. Two parties withdrew their applications. Later, the remaining 77 parties were given 15 days to provide additional documents. From there, the EC selected the 12 parties, he added. Asked about the finalisation process, the EC secretary stated that after verification, the commission decided to collect information about the 12 parties from the field level. For registration, a political party would need to meet at least one of three conditions. The first condition is securing at least one seat with its electoral symbol in any parliamentary election held since the independence of Bangladesh. The second condition is obtaining

five percent of total votes cast in the constituencies in which its candidates took part in any of the national elections. The third condition is having a functional central office, offices in at least one-third of the districts and offices in at least 100 upazilas or metropolitans. And the party must have a minimum of 200 members who are voters in each upazila. Since 2008, a total of 44 political parties got registration and registrations of five political parties were cancelled. Oikyabaddho Nagarik Andolan, Pragatashil Ganatantrik Party and Jatiya Ganatantrik Party lost their registrations as they failed to comply with the conditions of getting registration since 2018. Besides, registration of the Freedom Party was cancelled in 2009 as it failed to provide the party charter. Jamaat’s registration as a political party was declared illegal by the High Court in 2013. Following the verdict, the EC cancelled the party’s registration in October 2018.

In despair, farmer attempts suicide

FROM PAGE 12 Mukul filed a complaint with the local union parishad chairman, but got no results. In the meantime, the ground of his fields started cracking and the plants turned yellow. Shamsul Wadud, additional director of Department of Agricultural Extension (Rajshahi region), said the paddy fields in the region should be under constant irrigation during this period. Speaking to The Daily Star in the hospital, Mukul said he became helpless as he was denied water repeatedly. “As I belong to the Santal community, I cannot force anyone [to provide water]. I felt helpless.” He said he took two bottles of pesticide from the tube-well room, and drank pesticide from one of those in front of the operator on Sunday afternoon. Operator Hashem then took away the other bottle. The farmer was admitted to the RMCH around 3:00am Monday, said a hospital staff. The Rajshahi DC said he ordered the authorities to circulate his mobile

phone number among all farmers so that they could directly inform him about their problems. “We will not allow any indiscipline in the distribution of irrigation water,” he said. Mukul’s brother-in-law Robi Kisku said the deep tube-well was designated for irrigating paddy fields on 250 bighas, but the operator supplied water to 450 bighas which resulted in the water crisis in the area. “Water crisis in summer is common in our area. But supplying water to additional fields deepens the scarcity,” Robi said. Operator Hashem said every farmer needs water as a heatwave was sweeping across the area. “How can I provide water to all farmers at a same time?” He denied the allegations of supplying water to additional fields and the farmer’s statement that he took pesticide in front of him. “When he threatened that he would take pesticide, I asked him to go to his field assuring him that I would give him water. But he went home instead,” Hashem said.

Former state minister

FROM PAGE 12 April 4 directed the director general (inquiry and investigation) of the Anti-Corruption Commission in Dhaka to investigate the case, said the court’s Bench Assistant Shah Alam. According to the complaint, the irregularities took place in projects including completing the construction work of the vice-principal’s residence, repair and renovation of the principal’s residence, construction of an auditorium, and renovation of classroom furniture, a mosque, dormitory, and kitchen. They are also accused of selling a three-storey cyclone shelter and a usable two-storey tin-shed for Tk 17 lakh without an auction notice and misappropriating Tk 40 lakh belonging to different departments of the college and Tk 3.94 lakh in HSC exam centre fees. Contacted, former state minister Mahbubur said, “My political opponents are filing false cases against me. They are doing this to prevent me from getting the Awami League nomination in the next national election.”