

TARIQ ANAM KHAN TAKES 'Peyarar Shubash' to MIFF

Noted actor Tariq Anam Khan is visiting the 45th Moscow International Film Festival (MIFF) with his film, Peyarar Shubash, along with its director Nurul Alam Atique. The actor landed in Moscow on April 20. Speaking to The Daily Star, Tariq Anam Khan shared his experience of Moscow thus far.

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

"It feels great to be here in Moscow for the first time. I am gaining a lot of new experiences through this festival. These memories of coming here as an actor will forever be imprinted in my heart," said the actor.

Peyarar Shubash (The Scent of Sin) had its International premiere at MIFF around 7 pm Bangladesh time, yesterday.

"It is a matter of pride that our Bangladeshi film will be screened at this festival. People of different countries and nationalities will see it for the first time and I am really glad that I am able to be a part of this," added the actor.

The film has been selected in the competition category at the MIFF. The festival will showcase other Bangladeshi films as well. When asked how he has been spending his time in Moscow, the actor replied, "I am really mesmerised by the beautiful culture and the humble nature of the people here. I also gave an interview for the festival. I am looking forward to returning to the country with lots of new experiences," shared the actor.

Peyarar Subash has been filmed in Sirajganj and Pabna. Apart from Tariq Anam Khan, the film also stars Jaya Ahsan in an integral role. The film comprises a talented assembly of actors including Ahmed Rubel, Sushama Sarker, and Noor Imran, among others. The movie is a joint production of Chorki and Alfa i.



Aryan debuts in commercial ad with SRK

Shah Rukh Khan's son Aryan Khan recently made his debut in his own brand's ad, alongside his superstar father. For Aryan's new clothing line D'Yavol, the father-son duo appeared as different versions of each other.

Aryan will soon be making his film debut. Simultaneously, he is working on his first feature film as a writer and director – which will be created under the banner of his parents' production company, Red Chillies Entertainment.

Aishwariya Rai dons two roles as 'Nandini'

After stunning the audience once again with her marvelous performance as Queen Nandini in the Tamil historic thriller film, *Ponniyin Selvan 1*, Aishwarya Rai is now set to appear in a dual role in the second part of the Moni Ratnum directorial film.

The actor recently attended a promotional event of *Ponniyin Selvan 2* last Tuesday in Mumbai, where she was asked to compare her role Queen Nandini with her character Nandini in Sanjay Leela Bhansali's iconic film, *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam*.

She shared, "A beautiful coincidence, it's amazing to know that such a thing actually happened. In fact, yes, even Nandini in *Hum Dil De Chuke Sanam* was very, very memorable. She has lived in people's hearts and I am so, so thankful that I got to play Nandini then too and she has remained special for the audience and of course to me."

PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



PHOTO: COLLECTED

COUNTRYWIDE

Garbage dumping poses threat

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Mymensingh

Indiscriminate dumping of garbage at different roadside spots in Netrakona town has been a serious nuisance for hundreds of townspeople for months.

Meanwhile, mindless waste dumping has turned Muktarpara area of the municipality into a landfill.

Residents of the area dump their household waste beside the main road due to lack of proper monitoring by the authorities concerned.

Netrakona municipality, covering around 21 square kilometre area, was established in 1887. Later it was upgraded to Class I municipality in 1996.

The century-old municipality has its special attraction as it is encircled by two rivers-Moghra and Dhalai.

Locals said there are several CNG-run auto-rickshaw stands in the town and hundreds of passengers cross the road in Muktarpara area every day.

Dumping of waste materials has been going on for several months, and they have to face serious difficulties while crossing Muktarpara area due to the bad odour spreading from the pile of garbage, said Moti Mia, a rickshaw puller of the town.

While talking to this correspondent, Netrakona Civil Surgeon Dr Md Selim Miah said dumping of garbage in open

space and the bad smell that spread from the waste could cause serious health hazards to people living in nearby areas.

The ill practice could cause different diseases like long-term respiratory problems, skin diseases, diarrhoea and malaria, the civil surgeon added.

Contacted, Johirul Haque Khan, conservation officer at Netrakona municipality, said four garbage carrying trucks are engaged in collecting and cleaning up garbage from different areas of the town every day.

It is very difficult to handle the ever-increasing pressure of garbage maintenance as the municipality alone produces around 20 tonnes of waste materials daily, he said, adding that there are some 120 cleaners working under the municipality.

Executive Engineer at Netrakona Municipality Jahangir Hossain Khan said the garbage carrying trucks of the municipality collect the garbage from different areas and dumped those at a designated place in Rajur Bazar area of the town for years.

Construction of a huge shed, under Urban Government Infrastructure Improvement Project-3, at Rajur Bazar dumping ground is already underway to avoid health hazards and public nuisance, he said.

Families point

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However, family members of the victims claimed that the duo were killed due to political rivalry.

Mahfuzur Rahman, Noman's elder brother and chairman of Bashikpur Union Parishad, told The Daily Star that his political rivals, who were defeated in the last union parishad elections, were behind the murders.

He accused the former chairman and vice president of Awami League's Chandraganj unit Abul Kashem Jihadi and his associates of being involved in the killings.

In the last union parishad election, Mahfuzur contested as an independent candidate and defeated Awami League candidate Jihadi.

"After the defeat, Jihadi had been threatening me and my family," he said.

The Daily Star could not reach out to Abul Kashem Jihadi despite making several attempts.

No case was filed in connection with the double murder till this report was filed.

4 days gone

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Two other named accused – Anwar Hossain of Matarbari area and Babul Majhi of Moheshkhali upazila – and 60 unnamed accused.

Earlier on Sunday, a trawler owned by Gura Mia pulled the boat with the bodies ashore after finding it sunken near Sonadia Island in the Bay of Bengal.

Six of the bodies have been handed over to their families, while the remaining four have been kept in the Cox's Bazar Sadar Hospital morgue.

They will be handed over to their families after their identities are confirmed through DNA tests, police said.

Three cops

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into a nearby village while trying to apprehend him," he told journalists.

There, some 40 to 50 people ambushed the police team with sharp and blunt weapons, leaving three cops injured.

The attackers also snatched a firearm from police, the SP added.

On information,

additional law enforcers rushed to the spot, conducted drives, and arrested 15 persons in this connection.

The firearm was also recovered during the drive.

Initially, the injured policemen were taken to the local upazila health complex. As their conditions were critical, they were shifted to CMCH,

Facebook ads no longer available

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and disruptive situation outside of our control," the letter added.

Like Httpool, foreign airlines and shipping companies have been unable to repatriate proceeds, while businesses have been unable to open letters of credit as the government endeavours to safeguard its dwindling dollar stockpile.

As of April 17, gross foreign currency reserves, as per the Bangladesh Bank's methodology, stand at \$31.1 billion, down 29.4 percent year-on-year.

However, the usable reserves are less than \$22 billion, meaning an import cover of a little over three months, according to finance ministry officials involved with negotiating with the International Monetary Fund over the \$4.7 billion loan programme. They spoke of the condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the matter.

Keeping at least \$22.95 billion of usable reserves on March 30 was one of the stipulations of the Washington-based multilateral lender – and the government has failed to meet that requirement, they said.

Httpool acknowledged sending the letter to clients.

The company declined to comment further.

BB Spokesman Md. Mezbaul Haque denied imposing any curbs on dollar repatriation by Httpool.

"Maybe Httpool's bank has failed to supply the necessary amount of dollars," he said.

None is facing any difficulty in repatriating dollars, he added.

"It is a huge local problem," said Fahim Mashroor, chief executive officer of bdjobs.com, AikerDeal and Delivery Tiger, which posts ads on Facebook.

Businesses will face big losses and the whole digital business ecosystem would be impacted, said Mohammad Sahab Uddin, vice-president of the e-commerce Association of Bangladesh.

"The way Httpool provided services to the small Facebook-based entrepreneurs in recent times, they have become dependent on it. These companies will see a drop in sales."

All tech-based companies would be affected too as the digital ads mobilise a significant volume of sales for them, he added.

For compliant local companies, the cost of digital ads is already high

said the district police chief.

Contacted, Chakaria Police Station Officer-in-Charge (OC) Chandan Kumar Chakraborty said police were conducting drives to identify and arrest the attackers.

"A case has been filed accusing 30 named and some 20 unnamed persons in this connection," he added.

due to value added tax and other duties, said Mashroor, a former president of the Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS).

"Also, the level playing field is seriously distorted compared to foreign-owned platforms that pay Facebook from their parent companies' accounts. This will create unfair competition and there will be no level playing field in promoting business," he added.

Customers too will be affected by Httpool's suspension of services as they will not be able to find out about the best deals and offers, said Russell T Ahmed, president of BASIS. "So, it's important to facilitate these payments," he added.

"We greatly depended on Facebook ads and this will almost completely stop our marketing activities," said Salman Saad Karim Chowdhury, founder of the e-commerce platform Prishteshop.

The e-commerce firm spends \$7,500 to \$8,000 on ad space on Meta's platforms.

"We paid Tk 95 a dollar about a year and a half ago to purchase digital ads. Now, it has increased to Tk 122-123 including 15 percent VAT," he added.

Ex-SP Babul

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Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on April 19.

The charge sheet mentioned that Elias is absconding. An appeal for an arrest warrant against him will be placed before the court today, said General Recording Officer Mahfuz Miah.

On June 5, 2016, Mitu was shot dead while she was walking her son to his school bus at Chattogram's GEC intersection.

Babul then filed a case accusing three unidentified men.

Later PBI took over the investigation of the case from the Detective Branch of Chattogram Metropolitan Police.

On May 11 last year, PBI called Babul to its office for interrogation.

Officers later said PBI took him into custody after he failed to give satisfactory answers to certain questions.

The following day, Mitu's father filed a murder case accusing Babul of planning the murder over an affair. Seven others were also accused in the case.

Nomination

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the people. That is why people have collected the nomination forms."

Zahangir was expelled from the Awami League in November 2021 after a video clip of him making derogatory remarks about Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and expressing doubts about the number of martyrs in the Liberation War went viral on social media.

He was also suspended from the post of GCC mayor by the local government ministry a few days later.

In January this year, the ruling party withdrew the expulsion order.

Before his expulsion, he was the general secretary of the party's Gazipur city unit.



Many roadside spots in Netrakona town have now turned into a dumping ground as the authorities concerned are yet to set up a designated spot for waste disposal. The photo was taken from Muktarpara area of the town.

PHOTO: STAR