

# ROMANTIC JOVAN plans to do more OTT projects

AKHLAKUR RAHMAN



Farhan Ahmed Jovan carved a place into people's heart with his suave looks and charming personae. This Eid, the actor worked in multiple productions of which three tele-fictions managed to trend on YouTube for a long period of time.

In a conversation with The Daily Star, Jovan opened up about work.

Three of your tele-fictions 'Eid Selami', 'Love Semester' and 'Sweet Kiss' was trending on YouTube.

I am really happy that audiences loved my projects. These three tele-fictions had stories which are unique from each other.

Rafat bhai's directorial tele-film *Eid Selami* conveys a social message/ while *Love Semester* and *Sweet Kiss* showcases cute romantic stories.

You have also played a few tragic characters in tele-fictions like 'Ek Jon Bhalo Manush', 'Chithkar' and 'Nongor'. Tell us a bit about your experience with tragic roles.

The audience has always seen and adored me as a romantic character. However, I quite enjoy playing the tragic characters. Stories like *Ek Jon Bhalo Manush* and *Nongor* are quite heart breaking, and I have given my best effort to portray the characters. However, not many audiences are prone to watch tragic stories during Eid, when they are searching for entertainment and a bit of fun-filled relief.

You have recently made your debut in OTT with 'Pori'. How would you compare your usual tele-fictions with web-films?

As I made my name with tele-fictions, it holds a special place in my heart. However, compared to tele-fictions, films or web-films have much more diverse characters, and give us more time to thoroughly do our 'homework' on the roles we play. Which is why I do plan on taking more OTT works in the future and am already in talks for a few.

What are your plans for the coming Eid-ul Adha?

I will be busy myself with productions for the next Eid after this vacation. Fans will surely get to enjoy many more tele-fictions in the coming Eid as well.

Do you have anything to say for your fans?

It is their support that has brought me this far, and I am extremely grateful to them. I hope they continue to support me as they always have till now.

As I made my name with tele-fictions, it holds a special place in my heart.

However, compared to tele-fictions, films or web-films have much more diverse characters, and give us more time to thoroughly do our 'homework' on the roles we play.



## 'Pathaan' to screen in 41 cinema halls, 198 shows everyday

Bollywood King Shah Rukh Khan starrer *Pathaan* will soon greet the Bangladeshi audience in the cinema halls on May 12. Meanwhile, all the procedures for the Indian film's release have been completed, including the censor board clearance.

The organisation responsible for importing "Pathaan", Action-Cut Entertainment's Anonno Mamun shared with The Daily Star, "A total of 41 cinema halls will be screening 'Pathaan' around the country, running 198 shows every day. Moreover, tickets for the first and second days are almost sold out already."

## Nipun takes up new role

National Film Award winning actor Nipun Akter has invested herself in both showbiz and social welfare. She has recently taken up another role, joining as a goodwill ambassador for the DDF Wheelchair Cricket team of Bangladesh.

The team left for India last Saturday to take part in the T20 Wheelchair cricket series. Nipun will work on the team's publicity.

Speaking about her experience, Nipun said, "This is a very respectful responsibility for me. We hope that our team succeeds, the players are very determined. They look forward to winning every match".



# COUNTRYWIDE



The Central Shaheed Minar in Moulvibazar's Kulaura upazila remains awfully risky, much to the worry of local people. PHOTO: STAR

## KULAURA CENTRAL SHAHEED MINAR Indecision over site selection delays construction work

MINTU DESHWARA

Indecision over selecting the right location has been delaying the construction work of Moulvibazar's Kulaura Upazila Central Shaheed Minar.

Although the tender process has already been completed, unfortunately indecision over site selection is hindering the construction work of the monument.

While visiting the Central Shaheed Minar premises a few days ago, this correspondent saw several large cracks have developed in the year-old structure while its surroundings remained dirty.

Locals said actually the Central Shaheed Minar has not been renovated for the month of February every year.

They said this is the first Shaheed Minar built in Kulaura municipality, but now it is on the verge of collapse due to lack of maintenance by the authorities concerned.

Kulaura Sangbadik Samity General Secretary Shaidul Hasan Shipon said, "I would suggest that the concerned authorities should select a suitable location for the Shaheed Minar, which is easily accessible."

Chairman of Kulaura Upazila Parishad, also Senior Vice-President of

Kulaura Upazila Awami League (AL), AKM Shofi Ahmed Solman said they want to build the Shaheed Minar on the PWD land, close to the Independence Monument, but the mayor of Kulaura municipality has other views.

Meanwhile, Kulaura Municipality Mayor Shipar Uddin Ahmed said Moulvibazar Zila Parishad has allocated funds for construction of a model Shaheed Minar in Kulaura upazila.

Now, it is the Zila Parishad chairman's responsibility to appoint the contractor and select the right location, not others, he said.

Contacted, Moulvibazar Zila Parishad Chairman Mishbaur Rahman said the tender process for construction of a model Shaheed Minar in Kulaura has already been completed.

"We will start the construction work soon after getting allocation of land from the authorities concerned," Mishbaur said, adding that Tk 42 lakh has been allocated for construction of the model Shaheed Minar.

Kulaura Upazila AL President Rafiqul Islam Renu said the Central Shaheed Minar was built about 60 years ago, but if the authorities concerned want to build it at another place, the Zila Parishad should discuss it with everyone.

## Biman should stay with Boeing

FROM PAGE 12  
Bangladesh is expected to have annual air-traffic growth of nearly 8.5 percent, according to Boeing.

To meet strong demand for passenger travel and freight, Boeing anticipates South Asian carriers will need more than 2,300 new planes over the next 20 years, tripling the number of planes now in operation.

Single-aisle planes, like the Boeing 737, will make up nearly 90 percent of South Asia's future fleet.

"Boeing planes have played a tremendous role in the rapid growth of commercial aviation in Bangladesh. Commonality

across the fleet will continue to play a major role in furthering growth, especially as it enables our airline customers to reduce operating costs and expenditures

**To meet strong demand for passenger travel and freight, Boeing anticipates South Asia's carriers will need more than 2,300 new planes over the next 20 years, tripling the number of planes now in operation. Single-aisle planes, like the Boeing 737, will make up nearly 90 percent of South Asia's future fleet.**

associated with training and maintenance," said Schulte.

The US plane maker

fears losing its strong grip on the Bangladeshi market as the local carriers are mulling planes of arch-rival Airbus.

Besides Biman, Boeing planes dominate the fleet

Novoir is planning to

of US-Bangla. The private carrier is set to add Airbus A330 aircraft to its fleet.

Novoir is planning to

add Airbus planes to its current turboprop only fleet.

Asked why the Boeing is losing its market share in Bangladesh, Schulte, not giving a direct answer, said Boeing was looking to engage more with Bangladesh in the days to come.

He said Boeing is in talks with Biman.

Biman's top management had said they were buying 10 new Airbus planes, including two freighters, to expand international routes and carry cargo.

Aviation experts have said Biman's decision to have a mixed fleet was

puzzling as it would cause cost escalation. They said buying new freighters will not be economically viable.

Bangladesh Prime Minister's Private Industry and Investment Adviser Salman F Rahman and UK's Investment Minister Lord Dominic Johnson recently signed the agreement for the 10 Airbus planes on behalf of their respective sides in London.

However, Biman Managing Director and CEO Shafiqul Azim said the deal with Airbus is at a very preliminary stage. Nothing is set in stone. Biman is checking out the market and it will pick the planes that suit it best.

## First contractor

FROM PAGE 12  
approved the firm's proposal. We hope to sign a contract with the firm by this month," DMTCL Secretary Mohammad Abdur Rouf told The Daily Star last night.

The project to build a 20km rail line from Savar's Hemayetpur to Bhatara via Gabtoli, Mirpur, and Gulshan will cost Tk 41,239 crore. The deadline for the project is 2028.

The line will have underground and elevated sections and 14 stations.

The metro authorities in June 2020 hired a consortium, led by Nippon Koei, to come up with the detailed design and tender documents and to supervise the construction work.

At least 85 percent of the detailed design was done as of April this year.

The authorities acquired 99.25 acres of land at a cost of Tk 934.84 crore for the depot and its access corridor. The land acquisition process made 85 percent progress so far.

## Sugar price hiked by Tk 16 a kg

FROM PAGE 12  
Corporation of Bangladesh.

The commerce ministry is going to ask the National Board of Revenue to keep the reduced duty on raw sugar imports, Senior Commerce Secretary Tapan Kanti Ghosh said yesterday.

The reduced duty facility is to expire on May 31,

he told journalists at his secretariat office after a meeting with refiners and stakeholders.

However, the secretary did not mention when the ministry would ask the NBR.

Ghulam Rahman, president of Consumers Association of Bangladesh, said if sugar price increases

in the international market, then the price will go up in the local market. It is normal.

He said the government should not be setting the price. If there is competition in the market, the price of goods will be reasonable. If there is no competition, it is not possible to control the price by fixing it, he

## Mocha may turn into a super cyclone

FROM PAGE 1  
for disaster management,

yesterday said, "It may turn into a super cyclone and the windspeed may be 180 to 200 kilometres per hour."

"The Saint Martin's and low-lying areas of Teknaf are at high risk. The residents will be taken to safer places," he told reporters after an inter-ministerial meeting on preparedness at the ministry.

In a special bulletin issued around 10:00pm, Bangladesh Meteorological Department said the

cyclone was centred about 1,420km south of Chattogram port, 1,340km south of the Cox's Bazar, 1,400km south-southeast of Mongla Port, and 1,360km south-southeast of Payra Port.

Maritime ports in Chattogram, Cox's Bazar, Mongla and Payra have been advised to hoist distant cautionary Signal-1, which means Mocha has windspeed of at least 61kmph.

"Fishing boats and trawlers over north bay and deep sea have been

advised to remain close to the coast and proceed with caution," read the bulletin.

The Indian Met Department said Mocha is likely to trigger a tidal surge with a height of 1.5 to 2.0 metres, risking inundation of low-lying areas of South East Bangladesh coasts and North Myanmar during landfall.

Thousands of people living along the coastline in Patuakhali are in fear, especially since large parts of embankments, which protect villages at such

times, remain damaged.

A tidal surge may cause floods in vast areas, said locals.

However, the state minister said, the damage in other areas may not be severe as it will hit the hilly area.

State minister Enamur said the ministry had allocated Tk 20 lakh for management of cyclone shelters in Cox's Bazar and Chattogram.

About 14 tonnes of dry cake and toasts, and 200 tonnes of rice had been allocated for the shelters.