



(From L-R) Mamunur Rashid, Abul Hayat, Aruna Biswas, Jeetu Ahsan, Mahfuz Ahmed

PHOTOS: STAR AND COLLECTED

‘He was a director who elevated numerous stars’

Artistes remember Mohan Khan

Renowned writer-director Mohan Khan, was a powerful presence in the entertainment industry. Over the years, he directed over five hundred projects. Many famed artistes began their journey in showbiz by working in his projects. Sadly, the director had been unwell for quite some time now. On May 30, he passed away.



Mohan Khan

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Remembering his legacy, many artistes came forward to share a few words about the late director with The Daily Star.

He was always there whenever I needed him: Mamunur Rashid

Mohan Khan was one of my favourite people. He was always there for me whenever I needed him. In addition to being an excellent writer and director, he was also an accomplished organiser. After working together for so many years, Mohan Khan became a person very close to my heart. With his departure, the one thing I believe is that he left us too soon.

His passing has saddened me and our industry greatly. Even now, his smiling face flashes before my eyes again and again.

He was a family man: Abul Hayat

Mohan Khan was a family man and treated everyone like his family. The two of us were very close. I am really saddened to hear the news of his passing. I knew him for many years. Even though, in recent years, we did not work together as much, we were still in touch. It's really sad that he left us so soon. Now, all we can do is pray for him. May the Almighty bless him.

He was a star director who elevated numerous artistes: Aruna Biswas

I have done quite a few projects with Mohan Khan. Amongst the numerous people we meet in our lives, it's truly hard to find someone who is always lively and happy. He was just that—always happy and smiling. I have never seen him sad in all the years that I have known him. Above all else, he was a family man, who deeply cared about his wife and children. For him, family always came first.

Mohan Khan was an excellent director and writer. He held a unique fondness for the sea, which is why for many of us, being on his projects meant going close to the sea.

He was a star director who elevated numerous artistes. My son and Mohan's son go to the same school, which is why we became close friends. We have many memories together. I still remember how we used to gather at his house during Pahela Baishakh for *adda*, and *kacchi*. But from today on, those beautiful events will only be memories.

I would fondly call him Mohan kaka: Jeetu Ahsan

I have known Mohan Khan since 1988. We first met during the production of BTV's *Jonaki Jole*. I worked in his tele-fiction *Bhalobasha*

Ek Nodir Nam. I used to fondly call him Mohon *kaka*. Since then, I have worked on a lot of his projects and have shared countless, beautiful memories with him.

His projects always took us close to the sea—to Cox's Bazar. Now, when I visit Cox's Bazar in the future, I will always miss him whenever I am there. He was someone who always kept everyone happy and smiling during shooting.

Mohan bhai, please forgive me: Mahfuz Ahmed

I met Mohan bhai way before my acting career, when I was a student at Dhaka University and used to write for various newspapers. At that time, Mohan bhai was also a student of Dhaka University and had also been a journalist for some time. After we met, we bonded over time. He even called me and gave me a job at a newspaper.

He had it all, he was good-looking and smart with a beautiful heart. Moreover, Mohan bhai always had this unique charm that made everyone around him feel happy and closer to him.

My memories with Mohan bhai are flashing before my eyes, and I am left thinking—you have left us so soon, Mohan bhai. Were you really in such a hurry?

I have no way to console myself. I shared such a long and beautiful friendship with him, yet I haven't tried to meet up with him for so many years. I could not meet him, even in his last days. Have we all turned so selfish? Otherwise, we would've at least called him now and then.

I should've kept in touch with him, all these years. I don't know if he will forgive me, I am saying this now, Mohan bhai, please forgive me.

COUNTRYWIDE

Magura litchi growers, traders eye good profit

AZIBOR RAHMAN

Litchi growers and traders in Magura are expecting good profits this season due to high yield and better prices of their produce.

Local litchi growers said the yield is quite high this year due to favourable weather condition and hope to earn a good profit then the previous years.

Harvesting of the mouth-watering fruit started from April 15 and will continue till mid-June.

Currently they are passing busy time in harvesting the Bombay variety, growers said.

According to Magura Department of Agriculture Extension (DAE), around 640 hectares of land in four upazilas of the district have been brought under litchi cultivation this year, while the target was around 8,975 tonnes.

Alongside the Bombay variety, different local varieties of litchis are being produced at Hazrapur, Sachani, Lautara, Baromile, Ramnagar, Dariapur and Nandalalpur villages in Magura Sadar upazila.

A number of farmers said as the soil of the district is suitable for litchi cultivation litchi orchards need little care all the year round.

They applied compost fertilizer and phosphate and got a good production

due to favourable weather this year.

Farmer Moslem Sardar of Hazrapur village said he has a total of 125 litchi trees in his orchard.

Fortunately, as there was no natural disaster like storm or untimely rainfall this season he got about 14,000 to 15,000 litchis from each tree, which was only 6,000 to 6,500 last year, Moslem said.

Ohid Hossain, a litchi trader from Sachani village said Magura's litchi is very tasty and it has a good demand in other parts of the country, especially in the capital.

Every year, wholesalers from different districts across the country come to the district to buy litchi and sale those to different markets, Ohid said, adding that he bought four separate orchards at Sachini and Hazrapur villages for Tk 2 lakh.

Rokeya Khatun, a female worker, said she earns Tk 500 daily by sorting litchi at a local orchard.

Magura DAE Deputy Director Sufi Mohammad Rafikuzzaman said farmers got good yield of litchi as there was no storm or pest attack this season.

He said harvesting of litchi and its trade creates a short-term job opportunity for nearly 25,000 workers, including girls and housewives.

Noab demands withdrawal of tax

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Currently, newsprint is subject to a 5 percent import duty, along with an additional 15 percent VAT, 5 percent Advance Income Tax, and 5 percent Advance Tax and with costs of insurance, bank charges, and transportation fees added, the cost of newsprint becomes 30 percent more.

Given the state of the newspaper industry, it is crucial that these duties are withdrawn.

Noab also demanded that corporate tax on newspapers be set between 10 and 15 percent, and that raw materials be exempted from being taxed at source.

It believes that it is necessary to allocate a portion of government incentives to the newspaper industry in order to save it.

Not EC's job to make anyone

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of negligence or remain silent even after noticing irregularities.

The CEC said election officials should ensure that no unauthorised person are present at the polling booths, adding that the commission would monitor the election from its office in the capital via CCTV cameras.

Awal said no presiding officers should feel that they are alone at the polling centres. "People get frightened when you are alone in any crisis. The Election Commission and the administration are with you always."

He also urged the polls officials not to take their jobs lightly. "Use your authority while working as election officials."



A man checks the destruction of parts of a house reportedly attacked by Israeli settlers, in the West Bank village of Jalud, yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP

Army suspends ceasefire

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"despite repeated violations" by the army.

Sudan has a history of political upheaval, coups and conflicts, but violence has usually hit regions far from Khartoum. This time, fighting has centred on the capital, an urban sprawl at the confluence of the Blue and White Nile rivers and home to millions of people.

Commenting on the Sudanese army's withdrawal from the Jeddah talks, Mohamed El Hacen Lebat, African Union spokesperson on the crisis in Sudan, said: "It is not surprising. It happens often. We hope the mediator will succeed to bring both parties for working on expected ceasefire."

The capital has seen widespread looting and frequent power and water supply cuts. Most hospitals have stopped functioning.

Before the ceasefire deal was renewed, an army source said the army had demanded the RSF withdraw from civilian homes and hospitals as a condition for an extension.

After the five-day extension was agreed, talks continued on the truce terms.

The truce has been brokered and is being remotely monitored by Saudi Arabia and the United States. They say it has been violated by both sides, although the truce has still allowed the delivery of aid to an estimated 2 million people.

Demand for recognition on agenda

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It said the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh was planned and perpetrated by the Pakistan military aided by their Bihari and Bangalee collaborators. It is one of the world's gravest mass atrocities witnessed after the World War II, reports our diplomatic correspondent.

Three million people were killed, over 2 lakh women were sexually and physically violated, and 10 million people were forced to cross the border into India, leaving behind their ancestral homes and worldly possessions just to save their lives and dignity of their women. Also, over 20 million citizens were internally displaced in search of safety.

The statement said the act of evil committed by the Pakistan military was a foolish attempt to change the Bangalee race. The Pakistan army used organised and systematic rape as a weapon of war.

Also, the Pakistan army and its collaborators, namely Razakars, Al-Badr and Al-Shams, under orders from the army high command, systematically killed intellectuals and professionals of Bangladesh. This spiteful and evil act stood out amongst the mass indiscriminate killings of civilians. This act was designed to cripple the country intellectually.

The statement referred to the historic documents and academic

research in support of the demand and a bipartisan resolution tabled in the US House of Representative last year, calling for the recognition of the 1971 genocide in Bangladesh.

It called upon the UN General Assembly and other international entities to formally recognise the Bangladesh genocide of 1971 to give justice to the victims of the atrocities and bring the perpetrators to justice.

"We believe that only through confronting the past with sincerity and truth, rising above narrow political interests, we can acknowledge our shared humanity and join hands for a safer, peaceful world."



Workers sort litchi at an orchard in Hazrapur area of Magura Sadar upazila.

PHOTO: STAR