

I miss the life I left behind

MOSHARRAF KARIM

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Mosharraf Karim is one of the most talked about actors of the present time. His success in television dramas is enviable. In recent times, he received a lot of praise in Bangladesh and Kolkata for his performance in the second season of the web-series, **Mohanagar**. Usually, the audience is eagerly waiting for the release of his new dramas and web-projects.

The actor recently spoke with The Daily Star at a shooting-house in Pubail, Gazipur.

Which Eid drama are you shooting in Pubail?

I am shooting for a drama called **Arai Talaaq**, which is being directed by Sakal Ahmed. **Arai Talaaq** is a rural-based drama. The story follows the lives of the people of the village. In the project, everything comes to a sudden standstill, including the life of me and my wife. It's a very entertaining story. This is one of the few dramas I have done for Eid.

Could you tell us about your character in the drama?

Here, I play the role of a member of the village. I have enjoyed playing the character. As an artiste, I always try to blend in with my roles. This also happened with this character. I hope the audience will enjoy my role in **Arai Talaaq**.

Many people argue that audiences do not watch dramas as much nowadays. What do you think about that?

Those of us who act, do it for the audience. The audience is the lifeblood of such shows. I love acting because of them. Personally, I think the audience enjoys watching dramas. They love this culture. There is still an audience for dramas and usually these types of projects are well-received.

How much do you enjoy acting?

I enjoy 100 percent of it and I love it as well. The only reason I can act, is because I enjoy it. Otherwise, it would not have been possible to spend so many years of my life acting.

You received a lot of appreciation for your role in 'Mohanagar' season 2. What are your thoughts?

Season 2 of **Mohanagar** has been well received by the audience. A lot of discussions are taking place about the show, in a variety of platforms, which has inspired me as an artiste. I am happy that they enjoyed my performance. All of us involved in **Mohanagar** have given our best to making the series a success. Our director, Ashlaque Nipun, has done everything with the utmost care and with a lot of hard work.

As a child, you spent a few years in Barishal, after which you came to Dhaka and worked in theatre. Do you ever miss the life you left behind?

I do miss the life I left behind and I think about it quite often. There is a river near my old house in Barishal. As a child, I would bathe in that river, swim in it and spend many hours in the water. I miss all of that. After coming to Dhaka, I spent many years in theatre. I miss those days as well.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Mahiya Mahi-Symon Sadik's 'Live' coming to OTT this Eid



On the occasion of Eid ul-Azha, psycho-thriller film, **Live** featuring Symon Sadik and Mahiya Mahi in the lead, will be premiering on the OTT platform, Bongo. The film was released in theatres on September 9.

Live revolves around a shocking murder that takes place within the family of Milon (Symon) and Joya (Mahi). The film delves into the investigation, unraveling the identity of the killer and their motive, while delivering an array of thrilling twists and turns to keep audiences on the edge of their seats.

Produced by Shapla Media and directed by Shamim Ahamed Roni, the film also boasts a talented ensemble cast including Shiba Shanu, Amin Sarker, and Saberi Alam, in pivotal roles.

Juboraj Shamim's 'Adim' to screen in Kurigram

Initially released in only four theaters on May 26, **Adim** garnered unexpected success, selling tickets worth BDT 1 lac and prompting a demand for wider screenings.

However, due to commercial reasons, mainstream cineplexes were unable to continue showing the film. Undeterred, young filmmaker Juboraj Shamim decided to take an alternative path to ensure that audiences from different districts could experience the movie.

The cinematographer of **Adim** Aamir Hamza, was determined to overcome this obstacle. He collaborated with local supporters to organise screenings of the film, in Kurigram. This initiative aims to bring the film closer to audiences who have been eagerly anticipating its release.



NEWS

Doctor blames hospital for deaths

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her regular patient.

"Akhi visited me twice in March but did not continue the follow-up with me, and I had no knowledge of her admission to the hospital on that day."

Speaking to this newspaper, Shakhawat Hossain Shamin, a cousin of Akhi, however, disputed Sangjukta's claims.

"Akhi visited her [Sangjukta] at Central Hospital at least four times. Sangjukta recommended multiple diagnoses on at least two occasions, each costing Tk 10,000-11,000 for those diagnoses alone."

Akhi's husband, Yakub, earlier claimed that he contacted Sangjukta's assistant, Zamir, in the evening on June 9 before starting for Central Hospital. "Zamir confirmed that Sangjukta would be available to assist with Akhi's delivery."

According to a copy of the "Shifting Note" to the intensive care unit issued at 2:30am on June 10, obtained by this newspaper, Akhi was admitted to the hospital under Prof Sangjukta Saha.

About this, Sangjukta claimed that Zamir was not her assistant. "And those physicians who performed the

delivery and C-section do not belong to my team either."

This newspaper, however, could not reach Zamir for his comment in this regard.

Sangjukta Saha used to campaign on social media by posting promotional videos featuring herself holding newborns.

Replying to whether this was ethically right and breached the privacy of the patients, she said, "I think this is ethically okay...I posted the videos upon consent from my patients."

In a video posted on her Facebook page on June 2, Sangjukta claimed to have made 12 normal deliveries out of 15 cases admitted to Central Hospital in the span of 24 hours.

When asked how she could handle so many patients with equal concentration, she said, "I have a dedicated team to assist me."

Authorities at Central Hospital, meanwhile, did not give an explanation for the allegation raised by Sangjukta.

"Our investigation team is working. They will submit their probe report by today or tomorrow [Tuesday or

Wednesday]. We will let you know our explanation once we get the report," MA Quasem, vice chairman of the hospital's board of directors told The Daily Star yesterday.

"The hospital authorities will hold a press conference at 10:00am today to address the issue," MA Quasem added.

Meanwhile, the Obstetrical and Gynaecological Society of Bangladesh (OGSB) yesterday demanded the release of two physicians who were sent to jail on Thursday over their alleged "mistake" during the C-section.

The doctors are Shahzadi Mustarshida Sultana and Muna Shaha. They are among the six physicians and supporting staffers sued in the case filed by Yakub.

The OGSB has also expressed condolences and sympathy for the deaths of Akhi and her baby.

"Simultaneously, the OGSB condemned the arrest of Shahzadi and Muna based on allegations before they were proven guilty," read a press release signed by Prof Farhana Dewan, president and Prof Salma Rouf, secretary general of the OGSB.

Eid gift for 1.25cr ultra-poor families

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In May, inflation hit an 11-year-high of 9.94 percent, taking the average inflation so far this fiscal year to 8.95 percent, way above the target of 7.5 percent.

"People are suffering due to inflation -- it is everyone's responsibility to fight against inflation," said Planning Minister MA Mannan quoting the prime minister as saying.

Subsequently, she instructed the respective ministries to find ways to give people respite from the soaring price level.

After Hasina raised her concern, Rahman informed the meeting about his ministry's plan for the poor ahead of Eid.

The rice, which is already being shipped to the districts, will be distributed through the deputy commissioner's office before Eid, said a top official of the ministry of disaster management.

Meanwhile, at the meeting, 16 projects worth Tk 24,362 crore were approved.

Of these, nine are revised projects where the cost escalated by 52.82 percent to Tk 19,835 crore. The original cost was Tk 12,989 crore. Many of the projects were revised two to five times.

Three projects were taken for the rural development of Chattogram and Rajshahi divisions and three districts including Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur. The estimated cost of the projects is Tk 8,160 crore.

While approving the projects, Hasina quizzed why the projects are not implemented with foreign funds as many of the development partners are interested in such projects.

Had the projects been implemented through foreign funds, it would quell the inflationary pressure and shore up strained foreign currency reserves.

"I am approving this. But the concerned ministries will have to find foreign funding to implement these," said a top official quoting Hasina as saying.

In response, an official of the Economic Relations Division, the government wing that negotiates

foreign loans, told the prime minister that such projects never come to their desk.

They would have sought funds from the development partners if they got it beforehand.

From now onwards, such project proposals would be forwarded to the ERD to solicit foreign funding, said a planning ministry official.

"Huge volumes of foreign loans remained unutilised in the pipeline. If these can be used, it will reduce the pressure on local currency and increase foreign currency reserves," Mannan told reporters after the meeting.

At the meeting, the prime minister instructed the finance and ERD secretaries to take measures to utilise more foreign loans.

More than \$50 billion of foreign loans is remaining unused in the pipeline, said Shamsul Alam, the state minister for planning.

The interest rate for foreign loans is only about 3 percent whereas the interest rate for domestic borrowing is 7 percent.

Using foreign loans will reduce expenditure and increase efficiency in the education, health and energy sectors, he added.

One of the three projects that got approval at the Ecneec meeting is taken to improve connectivity such that farmers can get a fair price for their produce in Chattogram.

Under the project worth Tk 3,110 crore, about 1,149km of roads will be improved in 67 upazilas of the Chattogram division.

Another project involves extending 783 km of upazila roads and 44 km of union roads in Rajshahi division's 65 upazilas for Tk 2,400 crore.

A similar project will be taken for Noakhali, Feni and Laxmipur involving Tk 2,650 crore.

Asked why these projects are being taken up now when there is little fiscal space, Mannan said: "Rural connectivity is very important for the country as it is the lifeline of the rural economy. These are not luxurious projects. We are not constructing four lanes or six lanes now."

Mother drowns

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Board. At another point, where the danger level is 14.8 metres, water is flowing at 13.17 metres.

The water level has been rising in the last two days and is likely to increase over the next two to three days to the danger level, said Ronojit Kumar Sarkar, sub-divisional engineer of Sirajganj WDB.

The low-lying areas down the river have been submerged, with no one affected yet, he said.

Our Moulvibazar and Pabna Correspondent contributed to the report

Chhoto Monir

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confidence" claim to the court, saying that the names of the masterminds were dropped from the chargesheet. Later, the Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted a similar probe report to the court. The Police Bureau of Investigation (PBI) is now investigating the case.

Asked about the matter, Muhammad Siraj Amin, superintendent of police (SP) of PBI in Tangail, said, "The investigation remains in primary stages."

Contacted, Monir said he had no idea who Sumon was, and he had never seen him before.

"It might be a conspiracy to tarnish my image," he claimed.

Charges against

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Tipu was the former general secretary of Motijheel AL.

Dhaka City (south) AL Organising Secretary Golam Ashraf Talukder; its member Maruf Ahmed Mansoor, also the ward-10 councillor of Dhaka South City Corporation; former general secretary of Motijheel thana Chhatra League Khairul Islam; and Motijheel thana Jatiya Party leader Juber Alam Khan Robin are among the 33 charge-sheeted accused.

According to the charge sheet, Suman Sikder Musa, who was flown back from Oman by DB several months after the killing, was the main coordinator of the double murder. He contacted Shamim Hossain. Later, Shamim picked his longtime friend Masum Mohammad Akash for the mission and assured him of accompanying him during the gun attack.

Musa, an accused in the Bocha Babu murder case, became annoyed with Tipu as he was assisting Babu's father for quick disposal of the case, the charge sheet added.

Suspect Babu 'threatened journo' four months ago

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is Babu chairman," said journalist Imdadul Haque Lalon, also Nadim's cousin.

"This audio clip proves that Babu chairman targeted Nadim ...," Lalon said.

Nadim was the Jamalpur district correspondent of banglanews24.com and the Bakshiganj upazila correspondent of Ekattor TV.

He died on June 15, a day after he was attacked.

Babu, who is now on a five-day remand, masterminded the murder because of a personal vendetta against him over news reports, Rab has said.

The case has been transferred to the Detective Branch of police yesterday and it has already started investigation.

Meanwhile, National Human Rights Commission Chairman Kamal Uddin Ahmed yesterday visited Nadim's home at Gomerchar of Bakshiganj and expressed his condolence to the bereaved family.

Titanic tourist sub still missing

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Paul-Henri Nargeolet and Stockton Rush, founder and CEO of the vessel's US-based operating company OceanGate, were also reported to be on board. Authorities have not confirmed the identity of any passenger.

"We are very grateful for the concern being shown by our colleagues and

friends and would like to request everyone to pray for their safety," Dawood's family said yesterday.

US and Canadian ships and planes have been sweeping the area about 900 miles (1,450 km) east of Cape Cod, some dropping sonar buoys that can monitor to a depth of 13,000 feet (3,962 meters).

Gono Odhikar Parishad

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A council will be held by July and the names of members of the new central committee will be given to the Election Commission.

"We are the founders and we made him a convener. The Election Commission does not give registration of a party to an individual," he added.

The leaders of Gono Odhikar Parishad held a meeting at Reza's home in Dhaka on Sunday, but could not resolve the problem between the two leaders.

Reza also alleges that if Nur joins the election, he will be a lawmaker and make money.

"His lust for money is immense. When we ask him about the financial

transactions -- from where the money comes from and where it is spent -- he becomes angry," Reza said.

Several party insiders believe that Reza's lack of active participation and the ego of the two leaders are the main reasons why the party is splitting up.

No decision has been made about removing Reza from the party, said Rashed, after taking the responsibility of acting convener. Rashed is very close to Nur.

"Since he is abroad, I was given the responsibility," he said.

The Gono Odhikar Parishad was launched on October 26, 2021, with Reza as convener and Nur as member secretary.