



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

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SHAH ALAM SHAZU

For the first time in her long career, Apu Biswas made her debut as a producer with “Lal Shari”. Directed by Bandhan Biswas, the government-granted project has been released this Eid, under the banner of Apu Joy productions.

Speaking to The Daily Star, Apu Biswas shared her emotions about her debut as a producer, her career plans and much more.

How have the audience responded to ‘Lal Shari’?

The response is quite good. I have personally visited a number of halls and seeing the audience’s response amazed me. What was more fascinating to me, was the fact that girls and women are coming to watch the film while wearing red saree.

What does ‘Lal Shari’ mean to you? Is it just another film?

Lal Shari is a dream to me. This is the first film I have produced, which also received a government-grant. My director, Bandhan,

worked really hard for this film. The entire crew gave their best effort to bring this project in front of the audience. I believe viewers will enjoy this film.

Is it true that you went over budget while filming this project?

Yes, it is true. Although getting the grant from the government was a huge support, the film’s budget was a lot more than the amount we have received. When I was facing budget issues, Shakib Khan helped me to finish the project.

Recently, on social media, you expressed that after your parents, Shakib Khan has the most contribution behind your success. Could you elaborate?

It is true. After my parents, Shakib played a huge role in establishing my career. We have presented numerous hit films together. The audience showered their love upon both of us, when we shared the screen together. It feels really great when the audience reminds me of those films and shares their love with me.

Shah Rukh Khan breaks nose after on-set accident



Bollywood’s king Shah Rukh Khan has met with an on-set accident during the shoot of an upcoming project in the US. The actor apparently sustained an injury to his nose, causing it to bleed, as reported by ET.

He was then rushed to the hospital for a minor surgery and is currently in recovery. A source mentioned, “SRK was shooting for a project in Los Angeles and he ended up hurting his nose. He began bleeding and was immediately rushed to the hospital”.

They also added, “His team was informed by the doctor that there was nothing to worry and King Khan would need to undergo a minor surgery to stop the bleeding. Post the operation, SRK was spotted with a bandage on his nose.”

PRITOM HASAN’S ‘Oboshorprapto Shontrashi’ released on YouTube



Pritom Hasan’s latest project, *Oboshorprapto Shontrashi* has finally been released on YouTube. Directed by Mabruur Rashid Bannah, this marks their first collaboration together. Both artistes seemed super excited about their joint project, praising each other in the comment sections of their respective posts.

Bannah posted on his Facebook page on Monday, revealing the official poster of the drama. In the caption of the poster, Bannah hinted at the drama’s theme and rated the experience of collaborating with Pritom, a ten out of ten.

Viewers can enjoy the drama on Progati Entertainment’s YouTube channel.

NEWS

No free, fair polls possible

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general election and the party’s thoughts on the current political situation in Bangladesh.

Replying to a query, Fakhrul said, “European Union has always said that it wants a free, fair, inclusive and acceptable election. A team will be here to assess the election atmosphere.”

He said they discussed the agenda of the BNP’s meeting with the European Union expert team.

Asked whether there is any scope for talks as both the ruling Awami League and the BNP are firm on their stance, Fakhrul said, “I cannot

say anything in this regard. Because no such discussion was held today [yesterday]... They [EU team] wanted to know if an election was possible under the incumbent government.”

The BNP secretary general said the AL has created such a situation and also proved through holding the last two parliamentary polls that a free and fair election is not possible without a neutral polls-time government.

BNP Human Rights Affairs Secretary Asaduzzaman Asad and two other EU officials also attended yesterday’s meeting.

Nur denies meeting Safadi

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7 this year, Safadi wrote: “In recent years, Shipan has used my name to take money from businessmen and politicians, things that I did not know about and was not involved in, made many promises that I did not know about...”

“I hope that I will be able to do an activity [sic] with the right people in order to obtain the rights of the Bangladeshi people, and be able to bring about the change.”

Safadi Center for International Diplomacy, Research and Public Relations, where Safadi is the director, prepared a report about the Holey Artisan attack in Dhaka. The title of the article is: The siege of Holey Artisan café and its impact on the country’s future counter terrorism effort.

Israeli newspaper Israel Hayom says Safadi is also a lecturer on Islamic affairs, terrorism, and the Middle East.

Previously, he was chief of staff in the Office of the Deputy Minister for Development of the Negev and Galilee and Regional Cooperation, and served as a liaison between Israeli and Syrian officials and the Syrian opposition.

In an article titled “Why Likud voters should support minority candidates” published on January 23, 2019, it was written that Safadi, who is an inhabitant of Israel occupied Golan Heights, is not a Jew but a Druze. The Druze religion complies with the aspects of Hindu and Greek philosophy incorporated into the tenets of Islam.

Safadi is a member of Israel’s ruling party Likud and a supporter of Benjamin Netanyahu.

He was the chief of staff of Ayoob Kara. Kara became a member of the Knesset (Israeli parliament) in

1999. Kara worked as deputy speaker and chairman of foreign workers’ committee. In 2009, after briefly leaving the Knesset, he was elected back into office under the platform of unifying the Druze and Jewish people.

From 2009 to 2013, Kara served as Israel’s Deputy Minister for the Development of the Negev and the Galilee and from 2015-17 as deputy minister for regional cooperation. In May 2017, he was appointed as the communications minister.

The same article said Safadi has extensive political experience and he founded the Safadi Center for International Diplomacy, Research, Public Relations and Human Rights, where he works to enhance Israel’s public image in the greater Islamic world.

Safadi’s activism is not limited to Syria and Kurdistan, he has been fighting to promote democracy, human rights and minority rights in Bangladesh. Due to his international public diplomacy work, he travels frequently to India, Azerbaijan, Europe and the US, it added.

On July 12, 2015, quoting Al-Akhbar, a newspaper serving as Hezbollah’s mouthpiece in Lebanon, The Times of Israel reported that a computer hack revealed the identity of Syrians in contact with Israel, mentioning correspondence of Safadi with members of the Syrian opposition around the world.

The article alleged that Safadi, working on behalf of the Israeli government, tried to recruit Israeli agents in Syria and Lebanon, smuggle weapons into the hands of Islamist rebel groups in Syria, and locate targets within Syria to be bombed by coalition forces.

Russian reporter badly beaten in Chechnya: NGO

AFP, Moscow

An award-winning Russian investigative journalist is in hospital after being badly beaten by armed assailants during a trip to Chechnya, the Memorial human rights group said yesterday.

“Elena Milashina’s fingers have been broken and she is sometimes losing consciousness. She has bruises

all over her body,” the group said on social media.

The incident happened early yesterday as Milashina and Alexander Nemov, a lawyer, were travelling from the airport.

“They were savagely kicked, including in the face, received death threats and were threatened with a gun to the head. Their equipment was taken away and smashed,” Memorial

said.

The Committee Against Torture, a human rights group, published photos of Milashina in hospital with her head shaved and covered in a green-coloured dye used on cuts and her hands bandaged.

The media rights group Reporters Without Borders said it was “horrified by the savage attack” on Milashina.

Dress rehearsal for Asia Cup

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which the Tigers won 2-1 at home last year.

“They probably have one of the best bowling attacks in the world. I don’t expect anything less from what happened in the last series. We have to fight really hard. We can’t expect to walk in and win the game. It is a good thing that we are playing against them at least four times before the World Cup. I think it’s a good thing for both teams. They will also understand our strengths and weaknesses,” Tamim said at the press conference on Tuesday.

Those strengths and weakness often vary for both teams due to the absence of stars, but this time

Afghanistan have a full-strength bowling attack. Alongside their world-class spin options such as Rashid Khan and Mujeeb-Ur-Rahman, they also have pace mettle with the likes of Azmatullah Omarzai and Fazalhaq Farooqi.

Tamim said that doing well against such a bowling attack leading up to the World Cup would give his side ‘the best possible confidence.’

The big news from the Afghanistan camp was that spin wizard Rashid was doing well following recovery from back pain. “He [Rashid] is good, he feels better and is available for the games.” Skipper Hashmatullah Shahidi said at the press conference.

Bill passed in JS amid protest by opposition

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Currently, the EC can postpone an election at any stage if it thinks that it will not be able to hold a lawful election due to irregularities or malpractices.

The amended RPO stipulates that the EC can suspend polls only on the polling day. Also, the commission cannot suspend or cancel the entire results of an election after the declaration of results by the returning officer.

The EC can suspend the results of only those (one or more) polling stations where irregularities have been reported. It can cancel the results and hold new elections at those centres concerned following

investigations.

Another provision of the amended RPO allows candidates to settle small loans and pay due telephone, gas, electricity, water, and other government service bills until the day before the submission of their nomination papers. Currently, these loans and bills can be settled seven days before filing of nomination forms.

Taking part in the discussion on the bill, Gonoforum MP Mokabbir Khan said the EC is subservient to the government and laws are enacted in the country for the benefit of some individuals, groups and the government.

He alleged that the electoral

system has been destroyed during the tenure of the incumbent government to such an extent that people are not interested in voting.

Mokabbir said people are deeply concerned about the next national election and the concern has spread outside the country. This is because all elections held under party governments are questionable, he said.

“People don’t want to see this kind of elections anymore. People want an election acceptable to all under a neutral government.”

Jatiya Party lawmaker Fakhrul Imam questioned how the incumbent EC would conduct an impartial election if it is not given the power to

Ctg landowner

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was learnt that the land owner Abdul Mannan and Nurul Kabir were carrying out the lifting operations at the site,” said the first information report of the case filed the following day.

This incident did not deter them. Five months later, Bandar Police arrested six people from the site while they were lifting and transporting the MBM. Mannan fled the scene.

Those arrested said the sacks were being excavated on Mannan’s instructions, according to the FIR.

Mannan took interim bail for six weeks from the High Court on May 19 in connection with the first case, said Kishur Majumder, sub-inspector of Bandar Police Station, who is investigating both cases.

Despite the raids and cases, Mannan is still involved in smuggling the prohibited MBM from the dumping station late at night, taking advantage of the unprotected facility, according to customs sources.

“It was beyond our imagination that anyone would dig up the goods and sell these products in the market,” Chattogram Custom Commissioner Mohammad Fyzur Rahman told The Daily Star.

He said that they have requested the port authority to install an incinerator to destroy the goods properly.

Besides, CCH wrote to the Chattogram District Commissioner seeking a dedicated space for destroying perishable and prohibited goods, he added.

suspend polls.

“A big difference has been made by replacing the word ‘election’ with ‘polling’ in the bill. Loan defaulters have been invited to run in elections ...,” he added.

Responding to the criticism from the opposition MPs, the law minister said each constituency usually has 100-150 polling stations. The EC’s power of suspending polling in all centres is not democratic if violence or irregularities are reported in only 3-4 centres.

“It is against the people’s right to vote. Because no violence or irregularities were reported in the rest of the polling centres,” Anisul said.