

ENTERTAINMENT’S RISING STARS

# JUBORAJ SHAMIM’S ‘ADIM’ A triumph of independent filmmaking

“Jaya Apa was very eager to watch the film since its release. However, she couldn’t watch the film in the theatres, but she still attended the film screening in BUET. It’s an achievement for me that I was able to create an urge to watch my film in them”

ANTARA RAISA

When filmmaker Juboraj Shamim embarked on his crowdfunded project *Adim*, he was driven by the conviction that genuine work finds its own path.

“When you do something right and from your heart, your work finds its own course. I was confident about my work, that if I did it the way I envisioned, it would definitely make some waves and it did,” shared Juboraj Shamim.

Confident in his vision, he poured his heart into the film, anticipating its impact. However, disappointment loomed when *Adim* was not selected for prestigious film festivals in Venice and Locarno.

Reflecting on those moments, Shamim admitted, “I questioned whether my film would meet the expectations of the audience. I also had doubts about its release in Bangladesh. Fortunately, everything fell into place, and now the film is thriving.”

Since its release on May 26, *Adim* has been making waves in the industry, garnering praise from noted artistes such as Jaya Ahsan, Nasir Uddin Khan, Imtiaz Barshon, Ashna Habib Bhabna, and Matia Banu Shuku. The film has also received accolades at international film festivals, including the Silver Saint George (Special Jury Award) and Netpack Jury awards at the 44th Moscow International Film Festival.

Shamim expressed his gratitude for the interest shown by renowned stars like Jaya Ahsan and Nurul Alam Atique, highlighting that every film has its specific audience.

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PHOTOS: COURTESY



for me that I was able to create an urge to watch my film in them,” he added.

While mainstream cineplexes discontinued screenings for commercial reasons, Shamim remained undeterred. He opted for an alternative approach, ensuring that audiences from different districts could still experience the movie.

Amidst the positive wave the Bangladeshi film industry is experiencing, Shamim shared his thoughts on the recent Eid releases. Although he hasn’t watched any of the films, he acknowledged the buzz surrounding *Priyotoma* and *Shurongo*.

“Personally, I don’t think I have the ability or talent to make such big-budget commercial films, but I think the industry needs films of different genres. Not all films will be commercial hits, but we have to remember that because of these commercial films, our cinema halls are being rejuvenated,” he said.

Unfazed by the commercial underperformance of *Adim*, Shamim emphasised that he consciously chose this path. “I knew this film wouldn’t attract a large audience or be a commercial hit. My focus was on authenticity and originality. While it may not be commercially successful, it has transcended boundaries and ignited discussions. I am content with the outcome, and truth be told, I believe I will recoup the film’s budget.”

Furthermore, Shamim announced his intention to return the film’s profits to its shareholders.

*Adim* delves into the lives of slum dwellers, poignantly depicting their relentless struggle for survival and dignity, amidst poverty and deprivation. Shot exclusively in a Tongi slum, the film features a predominantly non-professional cast, adding a layer of authenticity to their portrayals.

As *Adim* continues to amaze the audiences and defy expectations, Juboraj Shamim’s unwavering dedication to authentic storytelling has earned him a place in the industry’s spotlight.



## Syed Abdul Hadi honoured with Bulbul Ahmed Award

The Bulbul Ahmed Award was established by the Bulbul Ahmed Foundation Trust (BAFT) in fond memory of the renowned actor of the same name, who passed away on July 15, 2010.

Renowned musician Syed Abdul Hadi has been chosen as the recipient of this year’s ‘Mohanayak Bulbul Ahmed Smriti Shommanona 2023’ award by the Bulbul Ahmed Foundation. Currently residing abroad, he will be presented with the prestigious honour upon his return to the country.

Expressing his gratitude, Abdul Hadi stated to the media, “Receiving any award is a tremendous honour and a mark of respect. Bulbul Ahmed was a beloved figure to all of us, and I feel good to be recognised with an award in his memory.”

## Actor, singer and style icon Jane Birkin dies at 76

Jane Birkin, the British-born actor and singer known for her iconic style and social activism in France, has passed away at the age of 76. Birkin, famous for her musical collaborations with French singer Serge Gainsbourg, including the controversial song *Je t’aime moi non plus*, captivated audiences with her ethereal voice and became a symbol of French chic in the 1960s and 1970s.

Birkin’s death was mourned by fans outside her home in Paris, who remembered her as a poet, singer, and artist.



# NEWS

## GK Shamim jailed for 10 yrs

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them Tk 3.83 crore each, in default of which they will have to suffer one more year in jail.

Judge Md Nazrul Islam of the Special Court-10 of Dhaka handed down the sentence with GK Shamim and seven others present in the courtroom.

In the judgment, the judge said the prosecution was able to prove the charges against GK Shamim and others “undoubtedly” and they were given punishment for committing such offences.

Earlier, the prosecution and the defence had completed their arguments and the judge so far recorded statements of 23 prosecution witnesses, including the complainant of the case.

Criminal Investigation Department (CID) submitted a chargesheet against the accused on August 4, 2020.

On November 10 of the same year, the same court framed charges against GK Shamim and his seven bodyguards in the case.

Abu Sayeed, an additional special superintendent of CID’s organised economic crime unit and the investigating officer of the case, said in the charge sheet that Shamim has Tk 337.3 crore in 180 fixed deposit accounts with different banks, two houses in the capital and 52 kathas of land worth Tk 41 crore.

Shamim amassed the wealth through tender manipulation at government departments and extortion at bus terminals and cattle markets, the charge further added.

On September 20, 2019, Rab arrested Shamim on charges of extortion and tender manipulation. His bodyguards were also arrested then.

Later, Rab filed three cases against Shamim with Gulshan Police Station.

On September 25 last year, another Dhaka tribunal sentenced GK Shamim and his seven bodyguards to life in prison in an arms case.

## Questions raised over

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secretary is Maj (ret’d) Md Hanif. Both of them are former BNP leaders.

Hanif resigned from BNP’s executive committee in June 2021. Rahman was elected MP with BNP ticket from Barguna-1 in 1996, but later left the party.

BNM Spokesperson and Joint Convener Sarowar Hossain left BNP in 2019.

He denied that their party is involved in any conspiracy.

“The allegation against BNM that it is hatching conspiracy to split BNP is completely false,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked whether the ruling party is backing them, he said, “Not at all. It is absolutely false.”

BNM insiders said that at least nine out of the 33 central leaders are retired army officers.

The Daily Star visited the BNM office on the capital’s Airport Road around noon yesterday, when there was no one but an office bearer. Locals said the office was rented only recently.

BSP was formed in 2019 and is member of newly floated Islamic Liberal Alliance. According to media reports, BSP organised different programmes last year, where ruling AL MPs and party leaders including Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya and former AL MP Aga Khan joined either as chief guest or as special guest.

Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof M Akhtaruzzaman inaugurated a reception in June this year, after party Chairman Sheikh Shajada Syed Saifuddin Ahmed Maizbhandari got an honorary doctorate degree from Morocco.

Saifuddin Ahmed is also nephew of Syed Najibul Bashar Maizbhandari, chairman of Bangladesh Tarikat Federation, a government ally.

Mohammad Ibrahim Miah, office secretary of the BSP, said that they lean towards the ruling party.

“Leaders of different political parties attend our social programmes,” he told The Daily Star at the party office in Mirpur-1 yesterday.

Meanwhile, Nagarik Oikya Convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna also questioned the EC’s decision to pick these two parties.

“The Election Commission has no impartiality. The constitutional body has now become an affiliate of the ruling party,” he told a press

conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

Nurul Haque Nur, president of a faction of Gono Odhikar Parishad, was also present at the programme.

He claimed that there were directives from different agencies on the EC not to allow any party other than these two to get registered. He made similar claims on Sunday.

Election Commissioner Md Alamgir said they do not make decisions based on agency reports.

“In a democratic country, anyone can make a complaint, they have the right to do that. The people of this country should judge how true that claim is,” he told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said that BNM and BSP are set to get registration as they have fulfilled the criteria set by the law.

## EU should send

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associated with “terrorist acts” should be banned.

Before the meeting with reporters, the EU delegation had a separate meeting with four editors at the same venue.

The reporters encouraged the delegation to support sending election observers regardless of what the next parliamentary polls may look like.

Daily Jugantor Chief of Correspondents Masud Karim, Channel i Special Correspondent Pantho Rahman, Jamuna Television Special Correspondent Mahfuz Mishu, UNB Special Correspondent AKM Moinuddin and Channel 24 Senior Reporter Morshed Hassib Hasan were present at the meeting.

The visiting delegation started working in Bangladesh on July 2 to assess the situation on the ground ahead of the national election, scheduled to be held in late December this year or early January next year.

The EU delegation, led by Riccardo Chelleri, has held over 70 meetings so far. The team is scheduled to leave Bangladesh on July 23.

A technical team of the EU mission will further discuss the relevant issues with the Election Commission on July 18-19.

The main objective of the mission is to assess the “advisability, usefulness and feasibility” of a possible EU Election Observation Mission for the upcoming parliamentary election, according to the EU mission in Dhaka.

## AL, BNP to march city streets today

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The next day, opposition BNP will also march from Uttara’s Abdullahpur to Bahadur Shah Park in the Old Dhaka from 10:00am to 4:00pm.

Party sources said the road march programmes are for ensuring participation of the common people, adding that the fresh programmes will be announced after observing the marches.

On the other hand, AL leaders and activists will start marching from Satrasta intersection of Tejgaon to Mohakhali at 3:00pm.

They will also bring out processions in cities and districts under Rangpur, Dhaka, Khulna and Mymensingh divisions.

At its rally on July 12, the BNP announced that it would march in all city and district headquarters on July

18-19. Later, the AL decided to counter its archrival BNP’s programmes.

Besides the processions, leaders and activists of 24 thanas and 75 wards under Dhaka south unit AL and 26 thanas, 63 wards and one union under Dhaka north unit AL will be at the party offices concerned from the morning on both days and they will be on the lookout for anyone trying to create any unwanted situation.

## Patients suffer as doctors go on strike

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on June 15 over an alleged mistake that led to the deaths of Mahbuba Rahman Akhi, 25, and her newborn at the capital’s Central Hospital on June 10.

Mahbuba’s husband Yakub Ali Sumon filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station and also filed a complaint with Bangladesh Medical and Dental Council.

Due to the strike, doctors did not provide the patients with any consultation services.

Although the outpatient services at some diagnostic centers in Dhaka were continuing, our correspondents from Rajshahi, Mymensingh, Cox’s Bazar, and Shariatpur reported that these services were suspended in those districts.

While visiting 10 private hospitals and diagnostic centers in Dhaka’s Green Road area yesterday afternoon, it was seen that most of them had a lighter patient rush. However, people who came to the hospitals were seen struggling to get services.

On the other hand, patients from facilities with their doctors on strike went to the public hospitals for treatment.

Sources at Bangladesh Shishu Hospital and Institute and Dhaka Medical College Hospital, which are already struggling to accommodate dengue victims, saw a huge rush of new patients, adding to pressure on them.

Suruz Matubbor brought his severely ill wife to a neurologist at Dhaka’s LabAid Hospital from Madaripur yesterday.

With no doctor available at the outpatient department, he asked people at the Healthcare Desk if there

was any alternative option.

“My wife is severely ill. But they [the hospital authorities] said there will be no doctor even tomorrow. I don’t know where to take her,” he told The Daily Star.

Sabbir Ahmed, who brought his father for a brain stroke follow-up, meanwhile, said that his father’s blood was collected for a test that was earlier advised by a doctor. “So we didn’t face any problem.”

Chowdhury Meher-E-Khuda (Dip), Public Relations Officer of LabAid Group, said, “We have our own salaried doctors for diagnostic services. So, we were able to continue those. But doctors at the private chambers suspended their consultation services at the outpatient department.”

Indoor hospital operations, however, continued as usual, he said.

The situations were similar at the nearby Central Hospital, Green Life Hospital, Comfort Diagnostic Center, and SIBL Diagnostic Center.

Meanwhile, our Rajshahi correspondent reported that the strike has mounted pressure on the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

RMCH Director Brig Gen FM Shamim Ahmed said the pressure was mainly on the pathology department, where they had to hire seven staffers on an adhoc basis to manage the issue.

Aklima Begum, who took her pregnant daughter to Rajshahi from Kushtia, said, “I don’t know what I should do now. Transport expenses are high. I can’t afford another visit this week.”

Our Mymensingh correspondent reported that many patients were suffering due to the strike.

Mujibur came to Chevron Clinical Laboratory, a private clinic in Cox’s Bazar town, to see a heart specialist for his 80-year-old grandfather.

But he had to return home as the doctor, along with others, were on strike.

Our correspondents from Shariatpur, Dinaipur, Narayanganj and Tangail also reported a similar situation.

## Be careful

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statements made by BNP about the Awami League.

The recent media hype about a report on imbalanced power deals made by the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division featured in the discussion. The PM said that it will be investigated who are the vested quarters and the media who want to harm the government, the sources said.

The planning ministry’s evaluation department, the IMED, released a report on May 25, stating that the power sector was developed on a “model of looting”.

After media ran reports, the IMED silently changed its stance, dropping four pages from the report that criticised the power sector business models.

A state minister lamented that files are rarely passed on to him and are approved without his knowledge.

In response, the premier rebuked him and said if he keeps going to office in the afternoon, and shows up to work only twice a week, this is inevitable, the sources added.

She instructed the ministers to give up such habits and run their ministries with leadership.