

# ‘AMI KI TUMI’ turned my life around: JONAYED BUKDADI

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After *Networker Baire*, Jonayed Bukdadi was on the verge of immense popularity when accident struck and changed his life. Battling with trauma and weight gain, the actor was absent from showbiz for quite some time, but was determined on making a worthy comeback on OTT.

Currently, the actor is in the news for Vicky Zahed's multi-versal web-series *Ami Ki Tumi*, where he plays a dual personae.

**After your accident, you weren't seen much on-screen. Why is it that?**

It took me some time to overcome both my physical and mental trauma- I gained weight and didn't have enough confidence to return in front of camera. It took eight months to prepare myself to become fit, and then finally return as Ratul with *Ami Ki Tumi*.

**What made you want to work in 'Ami Ki Tumi'?**

Vicky Zahed was persistent on having me as Ratul for the web-series as he was confident that I was the perfect person to play the character. Also, I loved the multiverse genre and had been looking to work with something like that to challenge myself.

In the web-series, there were scenes where I was told my character might be shirtless, and thus it gave me a boost to get back into shape. I gave my heart and soul for this character as I felt it could change my life around again.

**In the web-series, you play dual characters, in two universes. How difficult was it?**

It was difficult but the ordeal was made easy by my director. His vision was to tell the story simply and that's how he laid it out for us as well. One tough part

was differentiating the different personalities of my character, but I found it fun.

**What was the most challenging scene in the series?**  
Rahat's death was the most challenging scene- as it was inspired from true events. Since the scene was a very heart-breaking one, Vicky wanted it to be portrayed as such that the viewers can feel the emotions. While portraying the role, I tried to channel his emotions rather than mine, the helplessness.

The character's emotions overcame my own in that moment.

Finally, when the scene was aired, I was really overwhelmed by the love from my fans who appreciated the scene.

**Your chemistry with Mehazabien was loved by fans.**

The credit for that goes to Mehazabien and my director. Since we're characters of Vicky's stories, how we act is up to him. Secondly, I was present in the moment, but as a performer Mehazabien holds more credit in nurturing the chemistry or the interaction.

**The parallel universe in 'Ami Ki Tumi' is called 'Sigma Bangladesh'. What did you like about that world?**

In that dimension, there is a rule that whenever someone harasses a woman, you will receive a shock. Which I wished existed in real life. There was another thing that I liked, bitter gourd taste sweet.



PHOTOS: KAWSER HAMID NOJUMDER



## Pori Moni to act in Tollywood film

From Nusraat Faria, Apu Biswas to Mahiya Mahi and Bidya Sinha Mim, the list of Bangladeshi artistes gracing the screens of Kolkata's film industry seems to be ever-expanding. Now, it has been reported that popular actress Pori Moni might also join the club and star in a Tollywood film.

Pori Moni revealed to Anandabazar Online, "I am working on a film in Kolkata. I don't want to reveal too many details at this moment. Everything will gradually unfold. After my son's birthday, I will be in Kolkata."

Amidst the preparations for the actress's son, Rajya's, first birthday on August 10, the audience anticipates her appearance in the Kolkata movie.

## Lizzo accused of harassment, weight-shaming



Pop sensation Lizzo is currently embroiled in a legal battle as three former dancers file a lawsuit against her, citing claims of sexual harassment and a hostile work environment.

The lawsuit was filed recently in Los Angeles, and it includes accusations of sexual, religious and racial harassment, discrimination, assault, and false imprisonment.

The former dancers, Arianna Davis, Crystal Williams, and Noelle Rodriguez, are the plaintiffs in this case.

Lizzo, who is known for celebrating her body and self-love, is also accused, along with dance choreographer Tanisha Scott, of weight-shaming Davis on tour.

# NEWS

## BCL activists attack Nur again

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and his followers. As the attack intensified, Nur and his followers ran away, and the BCL men chased them, witnesses said, adding that they attacked Nur again in TSC Metro Rail station area.

Nur was taken to a private hospital with a bloody nose.

Abu Hanif, a leader of Gono Adhikar Parishad, said they were staging demonstration peacefully when BCL activists attacked them, leaving at least 15 party leaders and activists injured.

After the attack, at least 10 injured activists took treatment at Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Tanbir Hasan Shaikat, general secretary of DU unit BCL, claimed no BCL activists were involved

in the attack, and that general students protested the entry of some outsiders.

Nur, former Ducusu Vice-President, have been attacked by BCL men on several occasions in the past few years. The first such attack was on June 30, 2018, when BCL men beat him up in front of Dhaka University Central Library.

### POLICE RAID AT NUR'S HOUSE

In a raid early yesterday, detectives broke open the door of Nur's house and arrested Chhatra Odhikar Parishad President Bin Yamin Molla.

Nur said as he refused to open the door, DB members broke the door of his house in Hatirjheel's Mahanagar project area around 2:00am.

He also alleged that DB men took away the CCTV hard drive and

the mobile phone he used to go on Facebook live during the raid.

Contacted, Rajib Al Masud, deputy commissioner (DB) of Motijheel Division, said they arrested Bin Yamin in a vandalism case filed on July 21 with Paltan Police Station.

Nur said the government was repressing his activists because of their anti-government movement.

Earlier, around 2:30am, Nur went live on his Facebook page and said some people in plainclothes were seen trying to enter his house.

Muhammad Rashed Khan, general secretary of the faction, said that earlier on Tuesday, the DB also picked up Yamin's father and another Chhatra Odhikar Parishad activist, Nazmul Hasan. Both of

them were later released.

Meanwhile, a Dhaka court yesterday granted Yamin bail.

Talking to reporters at his office yesterday, DMP Additional Commissioner (DB) Harun Or Rashid said that the search at Nur's residence was conducted lawfully. He accused Nur of hiding an accused person, Bin Yamin, in his house.

Harun alleged that Nur not only obstructed police from carrying out their job, but also verbally abused the law enforcers.

BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir in a press statement yesterday condemned the DB raid at Nur's house and demanded the release of the Parishad leader.

## BNP shows footage

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joined the meeting.

The BNP leaders said they faced obstruction in holding the grand rally on July 28.

Two members of the BNP's international affairs committee, who were present at the meeting, told The Daily Star afterwards that the party wanted to show the diplomats through the footage how the BNP wanted to have a peaceful demonstration and how the ruling party leaders and activists resorted to violence.

Issues of human rights violations were raised at the meeting, said the leaders, seeking anonymity.

BNP standing committee member Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, who was injured during the sit-in, attended the meeting. Footage showed how he was beaten up by police, they said.

At a press briefing after the meeting, BNP Secretary General Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir condemned the sentencing of BNP acting chairman Tarique Rahman and his wife Zubaida Rahman.

"This sentence has been given

to Tarique Rahman to keep him away from politics and the electoral process," he claimed.

A Dhaka court yesterday sentenced Tarique to nine years and Zubaida to three years in a graft case filed in 2007.

Amir Khosru Mahmud Chowdhury, a BNP standing committee member, told journalists, "We apprised them [diplomats] about the joint attacks by law enforcers and Awami League activists on the BNP's peaceful programme on July 29 [Saturday]. We also discussed false cases and arrests."

"Cases have been filed against those who were beaten up and injured. Many accused are actually abroad and some are in Saudi Arabia for performing hajj," he said.

BNP standing committee members Mirza Abbas, Abdul Moyeen Khan, and Nazrul Islam Khan and International Affairs Secretary Shama Obaid, among others, were present at the briefing.

No ambassadors or high commissioners were present at the briefing.

## Bangladeshi chef wins

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Talking to the Peterborough Telegraph about his win, Islam said, "I still feel sad but this shows that honesty always wins and honesty gives you power. I did nothing wrong. I came here legally. I respect British laws and the British people and I have so many of them to thank for supporting my campaign to get me to this point."

During his campaign, he wrote letters to the UK Prime Minister, the Home Secretary, and members of the House of Lords. He held street protests in London and secured the support of five Peterborough MPs.

Fighting the case for two decades not only forced him into financial hardship but also pushed him into depression and made troubled sleep a part of his life.

In 2020, The Home Office apologised to him and offered him £5,000 in compensation for its numerous blunders. Islam, however, has turned the offer down. "I am still very upset at the Home Office. I can't ever get the time I spent fighting this or my health back. I have suffered unfairly due to careless action and system failure."

So, his fight continues.

Despite all the difficulties he was put through, Chef Saiful Islam is now looking forward to starting afresh and plans to open a new restaurant.

## Crackdown

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observers should view the brutal crackdown on the political opposition as an alarm that elections in Bangladesh will not be democratic."

"The Bangladesh government is making international pledges on holding free and fair elections even as it unleashes autocratic and abusive attacks that clearly contradict those claims," she added.

The HRW said according to the BNP at least 100 of its supporters were injured during the protests. Conversely, the police reported that at least 32 officers were injured.

Ganguly said, "The ruling Awami League government is acutely aware of the heightened international scrutiny of its rights record."

"Incapacitating the opposition through mass arbitrary arrests and violent crackdowns will not fool anyone into thinking that the Bangladesh elections are free and fair," she added.

## Intermittent rain to worsen dengue situation

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Dhaka North City Corporation has brought BTI, which would be applied for the first time in the country today.

"This is a good move but they are already late," said Manjur A Chowdhury, chief executive officer of Safeway Pest Control.

The number of mosquitoes was around 1,000 in May and it multiplied six times to around 6,000 in June.

In July, they multiplied more than seven times to 44,000, said Chowdhury, a former president of the Zoological Society of Bangladesh

"If the trend continues, the number could hit 2.50 lakhs in August. The two mayors of Dhaka and the ministry concerned are responsible for this situation as they never use the standard procedure for controlling Aedes mosquitoes."

The priority now should be on killing all adult mosquitoes instead of the larvae as a person becomes infected with dengue within seven days of the bite.

"But the city corporations are not doing this."

As per the World Health Organisation's recommendations,

applying insecticide through the ULV machine is very important to get rid of this kind of epidemic-like situation.

Vehicle-mounted Ultra Low Volume (ULV) fogging machines are cold fogging machines that use large volumes of air at low pressures to transform the liquid into droplets that are dispersed into the atmosphere.

The government needs to purchase at least 10 ULV machines on an emergency basis, said Chowdhury, also the chairman of the Centre for Governance Studies.

## Mahbubul Alam, new FBCCI president

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and Industry, as the apex trade body president.

They also elected Md Amin Helaly as senior vice-president. The six other vice-presidents are Khairul Huda Chopol, Mohammad Anwar Sadat Sarker, Joshoda Jibon Deb Nath, Shomi Kaiser, Rashadul Hossain Chowdhury (Ronni) and Md Munir Hossain.

A Matin Chowdhury, chairman of the FBCCI election board, yesterday announced the names of the new leadership.

This year, the election was held only in the association group of the FBCCI to elect 23 directors as 23 directors for the chamber group were elected unopposed.

In the association group, 49 candidates contested for 23 director posts. Of the candidates, 23 were from each of two panels and three were independents.

Of the total 80 director posts, 34 -- 17 from the chamber group and 17 from the association group -- are nominated and the rest 46 elected, with 23 from the chamber group

and as many as from the association group.

This year, 16 directors from the chamber group and the same number of directors from the association group have been nominated after two directors from the groups were disqualified for a number of reasons.

The election was held at Bangabandhu International Conference Centre in the capital on July 31.

Around 89.35 percent votes were cast in the polls. Some 1,746 voters voted for their candidates. This year,

the number of valid voters was 1,954, according to FBCCI data.

Mir Nizam Uddin Ahmed, representative of Bangladesh Electrical Association, contested under the Sammilito Baboshayee Parishad panel in the association group. His panel won 15 director posts and Alam's panel eight director posts in this group.

As per the rules of the apex trade body, the chamber group and the association group get the chance to elect their nominee as president in alternate terms.