

Piracy can't stop SHURONGO

Tama Mirza

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tama Mirza is on cloud nine with the thunderous response to *Shurongo*. Even in its sixth week, the film is running successfully across theatres. It is also doing well in Kolkata, USA and Canada. The actor plays Moyna, whose obsession with money and wealth leads to her downfall.

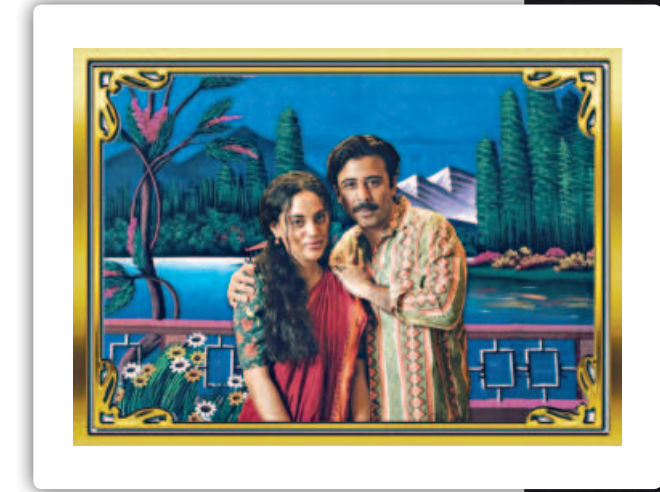
Do you think piracy could stop 'Shurongo' from reaching audiences?

No amount of piracy could stop *Shurongo* from reaching people's heart. People are still watching the film, and it is still going housefull across a few halls in the country. *Shurongo* is the biggest proof that nobody can hurt a good film by illegally releasing it on social media.

I am hoping to start filming again in November. By September, I will begin my grooming session for film and OTT. Throughout the grooming process, I will thoroughly immerse myself in the role so that I can give my all.

When are you returning to shooting?

I am hoping to start filming again in November. By September, I will begin my grooming session for film and OTT. Throughout the grooming process, I will thoroughly immerse myself in the role so that I can give my all. After I start filming, my schedule will be jam-packed with OTT



and film projects from November to June. I will reveal details about the project soon.

What has 'Shurongo' given you?
Shurongo has afforded me the love of the people. The amount of love people has showered on the film and Moyna-Masud, is really commendable. Moyna is such a complex character and I was really overwhelmed while portraying it on the big-screen. People have started calling me as Moyna, and nothing beats that feeling. I am forever grateful for such appreciation.

Your film is still running successfully in theatres in its sixth week.

This is such a huge achievement for Bengali cinema. Our film running successfully in its sixth week just proves how good content always pulls audiences to theatres.

Also, the fact that it has been named the top release of Star Cineplex is also wonderful news for us. Bangladeshi films have outperformed big-budget Hollywood films in the month of July. The future looks great for Bengali film in general.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



Dighi returns to silver screen with 'Deyal'

In 2021, Prarthana Fardin Dighi debuted as a heroine in the film *Tumi Acho Tumi Nei*, directed by Delwar Jahan Jhantu. Despite her early success as a child artiste, Dighi faced challenges meeting audience expectations in her debut film.

Now, the actor is all set to grace the silver screen again. The talented actor has joined the ensemble cast of *Deyal*, a film helmed by director Kamrul Hasan Fuad.

The movie is set to feature a stellar lineup, including Mamunur Rashid, Tariq Anam Khan, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Salahuddin Lavlu, Arfan Ahmed, and Saberi Alam.

'Barbie' tops \$1b at global box office



Director Greta Gerwig's blockbuster *Barbie* crossed \$1 billion in revenue internationally on Sunday. The long-awaited cinematic debut of the iconic Mattel doll has swiftly become the year's second-largest release.

Barbie, an instant blockbuster starring Margot Robbie and Ryan Gosling, has grossed about \$459 million domestically and \$572 million internationally since its premiere.

One of the summer's most highly anticipated movies, grossed more than \$155 million in the US box office over its opening weekend, including a massive \$70.5 million opening day, making it the biggest opening weekend of the year and the biggest ever opening weekend for a female-directed movie. *Barbie* went on to earn another \$29 million on its second Friday and nearly \$34.6 million last Saturday.

COUNTRYWIDE

Decades-old bridge poses risk of accident

LALTANLIAN PANGKHUA

An old bridge at Promod Karbari Para in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila has remained in a vulnerable condition due to lack of repair work for long.

As a result, thousands of residents living at different villages in the upazila have been suffering a lot to go to the upazila headquarters and adjacent Barkal upazila.

Mentionable, the bridge, built over three decades ago, is the only way of communication between Baghaichhari and Barkal upazila.

Locals said the bridge has become so vulnerable that a major accident can occur at any time as no repair work has been done since its construction more than 30 years ago.

Now it has become so risky that even when a motorcycle crosses the bridge, it starts shaking, they said.

30 No Sarwartoli Union Parishad (UP) Chairman Bhupati Ranjan Chakma said he had repaired the risky bridge three to four times with his own money to avoid any disaster.

I have urged the authorities concerned to repair the year-old bridge on several occasions, but nothing has been done so

far, added the local UP chairman.

About 30,000 inhabitants of several villages use the vulnerable bridge to go to their destinations, including the upazila headquarters, every day.

Moreover, as there is no alternatives about 100 small vehicles cross the bridge amid risk of accident any time, he said.

During a recent visit to the area this correspondent saw most of the pillars of the bridge have developed numerous cracks, while some of those are falling apart.

While talking, Alok Chakma, a motorcyclist, said though the girder walls of the bridge collapsed long ago, he has cross the bridge amid risk of accident as there is no other alternative.

Local farmers are the worst sufferers as they are compelled to use the risky bridge to carry their agricultural products to nearby markets, Alok said.

Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board (CHTDB) built the 130-foot-long bridge in 1989, but no renovation work has been done since its establishment.

CHTDB Executive Engineer Tusith Chakma said they have already submitted a proposal to the Planning Ministry to construct a Reinforce Cement Concrete (RCC) bridge there.



This old bridge at Promod Karbari Para in Rangamati's Baghaichhari upazila has remained in a vulnerable condition, posing threat to a fatal accident. PHOTO: STAR

Saline

FROM PAGE 12

stores inside the hospital.

"Even if you pay me double the actual price, I cannot give you a single bag. You can look for it inside the hospital. Because the companies have been prioritising the hospitals," Khairul said.

Saline producers, on the other hand, claimed that the crisis is at "manageable level".

"There is a crisis, but it is not like that the hospitals will run out of saline. We have been prioritising need-based supply," Khairul Bashar, assistant vice-president of Orion Infusion Ltd, told this correspondent yesterday.

He said his company over the last one month has been running its factory even on the weekends and is currently producing around 2,200 bags a day.

"Around 80 percent of our production is normal saline. All six companies collectively can produce around one lakh bags of saline daily. So, there is no need for importing saline," he added.

The other saline producers are -- Beximco, Libra Infusions, Oposin, Popular, and The ACME Laboratories.

Md Salahuddin, deputy director at Directorate General of Drug Administration (DGDA), told this newspaper on Sunday, "It is not possible to increase production overnight."

Investigators

FROM PAGE 12

Sagar, news editor at private TV channel Maasranga, and his wife Runi, senior reporter at ATN Bangla, were killed in the early hours of February 11, 2012, in their rented flat in the capital's West Razabazar.

Their only son Mahir Sarwar Megh, then 5, was home at the time.

Nousher Ali Roman, Runi's brother, had filed the murder case with Sher-e-Bangla Police Station the following day.

Rahul returns to House after reinstatement

FROM PAGE 12

opposition alliance led by Congress.

Lawmakers are expected to debate, and then vote, on the government's performance from today to Thursday.

Gandhi, whose father, grandmother and great-grandfather were prime ministers, was convicted in March in a case brought by a BJP lawmaker over 2019 comments deemed insulting to Modi and others with the same name, including the lawmaker.

Upon his conviction,

Gandhi, 53, lost his parliamentary seat and was jailed for two years but granted bail.

The Supreme Court last week suspended the conviction, allowing Gandhi to return to parliament and contest next year's elections.

Yesterday, Gandhi entered the parliament building after showing respect to the statue of freedom movement leader Mahatma Gandhi in the complex. He did not speak to reporters.

"I have returned to

parliament after paying my respects to Babu," Gandhi later posted on Facebook, referring endearingly to Mahatma Gandhi as father.

Lawmakers from Congress and other opposition parties gathered outside the parliament's entrance to cheer Gandhi and their new alliance called INDIA, or the Indian National Developmental Inclusive Alliance.

The alliance is making plans to run against the BJP in national elections due by May 2024.

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge said the decision to reinstate Gandhi "brings relief to the people of India, and especially to Wayanad", his constituency in the southern state of Kerala.

BJP has said the Supreme Court has only suspended Gandhi's conviction and had not overturned it.

Gandhi's disqualification from parliament galvanised India's splintered opposition to form the INDIA alliance to jointly take on BJP.

'Sanctions a tool against corruption' Three-quarters

FROM PAGE 12

maintains its obligations to international conventions including the UN Convention Against Corruption.

"From time to time, there are instructions from the court on curbing corruption. We said how we implement them. We will be happy to collaborate for training in future," he said.

They also discussed the issues of money laundering and ways for prevention.

Not all countries or banks, especially the offshore countries where money is laundered, cooperate when Bangladesh seeks information on ill-gotten wealth, Momen said.

There needs to be more transparency and accountability in terms of international cooperation as one single country or body cannot prevent corruption of international nature.

"I told them there should be mutual cooperation on curbing corruption," he said, adding that there should be strong mechanisms to repatriate ill-gotten money stuck in foreign banks.

If the cooperation of all is not there, it will be difficult to curb money laundering, Momen added.

Meanwhile, Nephew invited Bangladesh to attend the 20th anniversary of the UN Convention Against Corruption in Atlanta in December this year where they would seek the commitment of all to curb corruption.

Bangladesh will attend the event, according to Momen.

Besides, Law Minister Anisul Huq will also attend a ministerial meeting of G20.

Asked if the foreign ministry has taken any initiative to bring back money laundered by S Alam, Momen said they have not received any instruction.

"If ACC requests, we will do whatever we can do as per the law," he said.

Meanwhile, Nephew wanted to know from civil society leaders the challenges of curbing corruption and what role the US can play in supporting Bangladesh towards this end.

"We said they can help strengthen our institutions and capacity

building of those working to curb corruption," said Iftekharuzzaman, executive director of Transparency International Bangladesh, after the meeting with Nephew at the US embassy.

Bangladesh has quite good policies and laws, but their implementation is weak, he said. In terms of preventing money laundering, the ACC needs to improve its skills, he said.

Iftekharuzzaman also pointed out that corruption has an international dimension, especially in the case of money laundering.

Some countries created scope for foreign investments without questioning the source of money. Taking advantage of such loopholes, some big fish launder money.

Nephew recognised that this is a problem and will look into the issue, Iftekharuzzaman told The Daily Star.

"We also said that civil society organisations have to create demand for curbing corruption. This requires creating space for civil society. The US can provide support towards this end," he added.

July was the hottest month ever recorded globally, with searing heat intensified by global warming affecting tens of millions of people in parts of Europe, Asia and North America.

Scientists say the world will need to adapt to the heat and other impacts already caused by emissions – and that carbon pollution must be slashed dramatically this decade to avoid worse in the future.

Scientists expect climate change will make heatwaves of the kind southern Europe has suffered this summer more frequent and even more severe in the coming years – adding to the burden on Europe's energy infrastructure.

Record-breaking heat waves across the US forced small businesses to close early in July, according to a report released on August 1, and reduced paid working hours for employees as dangerous temperatures reshape consumer behaviour, reports Reuters.

Women will bear the brunt of extreme heat as more frequent heatwaves on a warming planet pose a growing threat to their work, earnings and lives, researchers have warned.