ARTS & ENTERTAINMEN

The many faces of SHAHED A

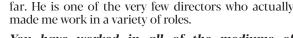
SHARMIN JOYA

In his career of 26 years, he has donned variety of roles and continuing to win over the audience with his acting skills. Shahed Ali started his acting career on the stage with the popular theatre troupe Prachyanat. From the small screen to films and web, he has the experience of working in all the mediums of entertainment. Today marks the birthday of this actor. We caught up with him to know about his latest web series Sharey *Showlo*, upcoming ventures and more.

Happy Birthday! What are your plans for today? Thank You! I don't really have any special plans for today. I am shooting outside Dhaka for a new project. My friends and family members are wishing me over the phone. It feels good to work on my birthday, because it makes me feel that I was born to work and I am lucky enough to have the pursue my career in my most desired profession.

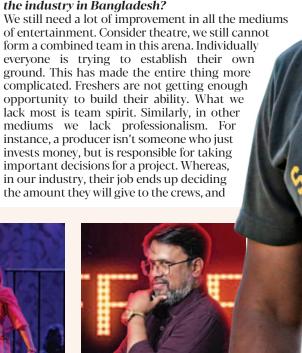
his side and made sure all the crews gave their best for

this project. The script and its directorial pattern are



You have worked in all of the mediums of entertainment. What is your observation about the industry in Bangladesh?

form a combined team in this arena. Individually everyone is trying to establish their own ground. This has made the entire thing more complicated. Freshers are not getting enough opportunity to build their ability. What we lack most is team spirit. Similarly, in other mediums we lack professionalism. For instance, a producer isn't someone who just invests money, but is responsible for taking important decisions for a project. Whereas, in our industry, their job ends up deciding







Yesterday 'Sharey Showlo' was released, where you played the role of Gaffar. Tell us about your journey in the project. The project has been directed by Yasir Al Haq, a young and talented director. He gave his best effort to from

very unique and well made. Rest is up to the audience, You played an important role in Vicky Zahed's 'Punorjonmo', one of the most popular multiverse series we have. How was your experience working

UNTRYWIDE

I have to make time for the stage, because I feel it

bargain as much as possible. The audio industry is dominated by a few people, who have literally stopped giving any chances to newcomers. Thus, in every medium, we are not giving enough space to newcomers. We need to work on our judgement for the proper growth of the

From film to television and OTT, you are busy everywhere. How do you make time for theatre?

is my responsibility. I have been with the theatre since 1997, the experience of getting live reaction from the audience is something that no other which I probably never got from any other director so medium can actually give.





Akshay Kumar finally gets his Indian citizenship

Akshay Kumar, who was brutally trolled for having a Canadian passport, has legally renounced his Canadian passport to reclaim his Indian citizenship on Monday.

The actor rushed to Twitter to share a photo of his Indian citizenship documents, expressing his excitement about the 77th anniversary of India's

He filed for Indian citizenship in 2019. However, the procedure was halted owing to the Covid-19

Pink Floyd song reconstructed from patients' brain waves

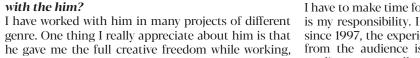


Scientists have reconstructed a Pink Floyd classic from the recorded brain waves of patients who were undergoing epilepsy surgery while listening

Researchers at University of California, Berkeley, US, used AI to decode the brain signals, recreating the 1979 hit Another Brick in the Wall, Part One.

This is the first-time scientists have reconstructed a song from the recordings of brain activity, read an article published in the Independent quoting the study authors.

Analysis of song elements revealed a new region in the brain that represents rhythm - which, in this case, was the guitar rhythm.



UNUSABLE BRIDGE

Two decades on, still no approach roads

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Moulvibazar

Several thousand people have been suffering immensely since a concrete bridge at Dilbarnagar village in Sreemangal upazila remains without approach roads for over two decades

As a result, nearly 5,000 local residents, especially fruit and vegetable growers, have to go through untold miseries every day as it is the shortest way to reach Jerin, Daluchhara, Phulbari, Dilbarnagar, Puran Bari and Radhanagar.

During a recent visit to the area, this correspondent saw there is no connecting road on either side of the bridge, built over a dried-up streambed.

Moreover, people were seen crossing the dry streambed by walking beneath the bridge.

Locals said the bridge was constructed in 1999-2000 fiscal year in order to facilitate movements of the people living in Jerin, Daluchhara and Dilbarnagar Puran Bari area.

Shamsul Haque, a lemon orchard owner in Radhanagar, said the then chairman of Sadar Union Parishad (UP) Mohammad Afzal Hossain built the bridge, without taking steps to construct the connecting roads.

One of the residents of Dilbarnagar Mukundo Das said they were getting frustrated as the connecting road on either side of the important bridge has not been built in the last 23 years.

Another villager Syed Ahmed said they have to suffer a lot while carrying their produces, including lemon, pineapple and banana, to nearby markets in the upazila headquarters as there is no alternative.

Shahadat Hossain, a student at Mohajirabad High School, said they have to go to school amid risk as it becomes quite unsafe to walk beneath the bridge during the monsoon.

Contacted, Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) Upazila Engineer Yusuf Hossain said they have a plan to complete the unfinished bridge work within this year.

Sreemangal Union Parishad Chairman Bhanu Lal Roy said the bridge was built without any guard walls on both ends. They would need a funding of Tk 20 lakh to build the guard walls before constructing the approach road, he said.

HSC exams

were infected with dengue A total of 13,59,342 students have registered for the HSC and equivalent exams. Of them, 6,88,887 are boys and 6,70,455 are girls.

A total of 11,08,594 students will sit for the HSC exams; 98,031 for Dakhil; and 1,52,717 for vocational tests under the technical education board.

The number of examinees has increased by 1,55,935 compared to last year.

Pak court

FROM PAGE 12

regard to suspension of conviction has been fixed for August 22," Khan's lawyer, Naeem Panjutha, said in a post on messaging platform X, formerly known as Twitter.

Panjutha said he hoped the Islamabad High Court, which will take up the plea, would grant Khan bail.

Beijing won't FROM PAGE 12

are ready to share their experiences with Bangladesh, he said. said Mannan

expects China to support Bangladesh in the post-LDC period after 2026 providing duty-free facilities to Bangladeshi products.

China is also interested in investing in solar power and electric vehicles in Bangladesh, he said.

After construction of the Padma Bridge, there are more scopes for investment and development in the country's southwestern region.

"We assured the Chinese envoy that we consider China as a very important friend. We have got Chinese support in the past and are getting it now. We hope to have more support in the future too," Mannan said.

Over 13 lakh hit by floods

to prepare and that many FROM PAGE 12

affected at badly 850,235 people, least and damaged 28,070 houses and nearly 723 kilometres of roads. It has also claimed 22 lives in the district, according to DRRO

Saifullah Majumder. Agricultural and produce worth Tk 186.30 crore and fisheries resources worth Tk 69.38 crore were damaged, he

the worst flood-affected

areas in Chattogram. Contacted, Mahmuda Begum, upazila nirbahi officer of Chandanaish, said, "We have been preparing a list of floodaffected people. We will distribute relief assistance to them in the next week."

Tofail Islam, divisional commissioner Chattogram, said, "We have

already issued directives to

FROM PAGE 12 added. all the officials concerned to Chandanaish is one of provide necessary assistance damaged in the district.

"Some areas are still" to the food victims.

> In Rangamati, some 6,812 houses and over 62 kilometres of roads have been damaged. "The highways under

our department have been damaged on 44 spots in Rangamati," said Sabuj Chakma, executive engineer of Roads and Highways Department in Rangamati.

At least 71 government primary schools have been

waterlogged.

assessment works The district going on. administration distributing relief assistance among the flood-hit people,' said Rangamati Deputy Commissioner Mohammad

Damage

[Our correspondents from Chattogram. Bandarban, Cox's Bazar and Rangamati contributed to

Mosaraf Hossain Khan.

Act now to stop encroachment

FROM PAGE 12

Beel from encroachments and illegal earth filling and construction of structures

The HC bench also issued a rule asking the authorities to explain why their inaction to protect Arial Beel should not be declared illegal.

In the rule, the HC asked them to issue show cause to encroachers, asking why

they should not be ordered to remove the structures already constructed at the water body and to remove the soil that has been used to fill it, Deputy Attorney General Kazi Mynul Hassan told The Daily Star.

The HRPB submitted the petition as a public interest litigation to the HC on on July 22 under the headline

"Arial Beel under threat". Citing the petition, HRPB President and Supreme lawyer Murshid told The Daily Star that encroachment, earthfilling and construction of structures at any waterbody are punishable offences under the Natural Water Reservoir August 14 based on a report Conservation Act 2000 and published in The Daily Star the Bangladesh Environment

Conservation Act. 1995.

According to The Daily Star report published on July 22, Arial Beel is facing an invasion by illegal real estate developers. These business entities have acquired parts of the wetland, filled them up with sand, and strategically placed signboards to attract potential buyers for residential development.

US rights bodies urge sanctions

As seen in the lead up

to the 2018 election, the

continued its efforts to

close civic space ahead of

the January 2024 election

through its targeting of

civil society organisations,

human rights defenders,

journalists, and others

International Republican Institute participated in it.

In 2021, the US imposed sanctions against Rab and some of its top officials for human rights violations, and in May this year, it announced a visa policy restricting visas for those involved in vote rigging.

throughout Bangladesh,"

said Kristi Ueda of the

Robert F Kennedy Human

considered critical of the that "We believe impartial government, she said. until effective accountability mechanisms are adopted by the Government of Bangladesh to investigate arrests, intimidation and and address such violations, the US must not lift the existing sanctions and must consider additional sanctions against other security forces, such as erode in Bangladesh. the Detective Branch and In the first half of 2023, Directorate General of Forces Intelligence, that human rights organisation partake in similar violations

These individuals and their families have been subjected to retaliatory harassment,

state officials, who have enjoyed impunity for their misconduct, she added. Freedom of expression and free press continue to

Odhikar documented 151 attacks on journalists, Ueda said. Also, the government said.

attacked media outlets, ordering the closure of 191 websites it accused Bangladesh government of publishing "anti-state news" in January 2023.

The government's attempts to stifle critical voices have become increasingly brazen, with the prime minister criticising the nation's leading daily newspaper, calling it "an enemy" to Awami League, "an enemy of democracy," and "an enemy of the country's people" after the newspaper published a report on high food prices.

In addition, Bangladesh has severely curtailed the rights to freedom of association and peaceful assembly. The treatment of Odhikar is emblematic of the ongoing targeting of human rights defenders and organisations for doing their important work, she

The US must emphasise to Bangladesh that should they want to address the human rights violations underlying the sanction designations, going after those who are documenting and exposing these violations holding instead of perpetrators accountable does nothing positive for their human rights record, Ueda said in her written statement.

that an open civic space is necessary for a functioning democracy, especially in the lead up to the January 2024 election. Bangladesh must ensure an enabling environment for journalists, human rights defenders, and organisations to conduct their important work without fear of harassment, intimidation, and reprisals.

The US must stress

