

# The beauty of 'char' amazed me: RUNA KHAN

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

National Film Award-winning actress Runa Khan has graced both silver screen and theatre stage with her exceptional talent for years. The actress is currently busy shooting for her upcoming film *Bok: The Soul of Nature*, in the picturesque Lalpur char of Ashuganj in Brahmanbaria.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Runa delved into her experiences of shooting for the new movie and shared insights into her aspirations.

**You are shooting for your new film on Meghna 'char'. Tell us more about the project.**

You're right! *Bok: The Soul of Nature* is directed by Masud Pathik. It marks my first collaboration with him as a director. In this film, I portray Sobita, whose husband is a Heron hunter. Through this movie, we aim to narrate a tale that encompasses life, nature, and the lives of coast dwellers.

**Is the film's script inspired by Jibananda Das' poem?**

Most certainly. Das' poetry is well-known among Bengali readers, and this film's script is inspired by his cherished poem *Aat Bochhor Ager Ekdin*.

Through this production, we intend to capture the essence of Bengal, the unique charm of the char, and the beauty of the rivers.

**How challenging is it to shoot in a 'char' area?** Char areas have their own set of challenges. Accommodation is scarce, and boats are the only means of transportation.

Interestingly, the weather has also played its part. Sudden drizzles during the shoot made the sequences authentic without the need for artificial intervention.

At times, we would shoot under the scorching sun and other times, we would drench in downpours.

For this film, I had to shoot without makeup

and the experience was quite unique. Sunburn on my skin for the first few days were a little difficult to cope with. However, I got used to the environment with time.

**Any particular scene that you found challenging during the shoot?**

A river scene which took around six hours and numerous takes. We started at around 9:00 am with a team of some forty individuals. A part of the team would be ashore while another had to be on boats, which exacerbated the challenges.

It was quite an endeavor as we had to stay at local homesteads and I must say, people here are incredibly warm and welcoming. Their hospitality has been overwhelming, with gestures like offering guavas or homemade meals.

Despite limitations, the beauty of the char and a genuine connection with its people truly made this experience memorable.

**What aspires you as an artiste?**

As long as I am healthy and alive, my passion for acting will continue to burn brightly. My aspiration as an artiste is to embody various characters that challenge and inspire me. The thrill lies in exploring a diverse range of roles which pushes my boundaries and capabilities to new heights.



PHOTOS: SHEKHI MEHEDI MORSHED

## SULTAN at Birth Centenary: Committee formed to honour the artist's works

To commemorate the 100th birth anniversary of SM Sultan, a new committee has been formed recently, titled "Sultan at Birth Centenary: National and International Celebration Committee".



The committee, led by esteemed artist Shahabuddin Ahmed (adviser), distinguished artist Monirul Islam (convener), and acclaimed portrait photographer Nasir Ali Mamun as the member secretary, have set forth an ambitious plan to celebrate Sultan's centenary.

Over the next two years, a series of events will unfold, offering a comprehensive tribute to the artist's life and work.

## Amitabh, SRK to reunite on-screen after 17 years

Bollywood's legendary actors Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan are all set to reunite on-screen after 17 years.

According to Indian media, the mega stars will appear in a project which is yet to be revealed. Fans are hoping that both the actors will make a cameo appearance in *Don 3*.

Amitabh Bachchan and Shah Rukh Khan have previously gifted blockbuster movies including *Mohabbatein*, *Kabhi Kabhi Kabhi Gham* and *Kabhi Alvida Na Kehna*, among others.



# NEWS

## 3 cops killed as train hits police car

FROM PAGE 12

Eskandar Ali Molla of Bagerhat, and Mizanur Rahman of Gopalganj.

Sub-inspector Sujan Sharma and constable Shamar Shah, who was the driver of the vehicle, were undergoing treatment at Chattogram Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Sujan, who sustained a serious head injury, had an operation.

Police said gatekeeper Shabriar Mahmud Dipu is on the run.

Sources at Bangladesh Railway said Dipu was not a permanent employee of the railway. He was working on a contract.

The level crossing is an authorised one and under the jurisdiction of the railway, they added.

Md Tofayel Ahmed, officer-in-charge of Sitakunda Model Police Station, told The Daily Star, "The police team led by SI Sujan Sharma was going to arrest an accused in a case filed under the women and

children repression prevention act."

He said the team took Shahadat Hossain, a member of Salimpur Union Parishad, with it to arrest the accused. When the police car went onto the level crossing around noon, the Chattogram-bound Sonar Bangla train hit the vehicle, the OC said, quoting witnesses.

Shahadat, who was also wounded in the accident, was taking treatment at CMCH.

Witness Md Tarek, a vegetable vendor, said, "Amid the heavy rain, we tried to alert the police car after hearing the whistle of the running train. The vehicle was crossing the rail track slowly. At that time, the bar at the gate was not lowered."

"I rescued the SI, three constables and sent them to the hospital."

The deceased were in the back seats, Tarek added.

This newspaper could not find any railway official on the spot till

5:00pm.

Quoting gateman Dipu, Tarek and two other locals said Dipu did not get his wage for over three months.

Tarek said, "Dipu told me that he was unpaid for a few months. Dipu also said he went to senior officials of the railway, but to no avail."

Dipu used to come to the workplace around 9:00am in the morning and leave after several hours, said roadside shopkeepers and vendors.

Contacted, Abidur Rahman, divisional railway manager of East Zone, told The Daily Star, "We have sacked the gateman and formed a four-member committee to investigate the incident."

About the gateman's wage, he said, "The gateman works under a contractor and submitted his bill to a BR section that does not deal with it, creating the complexity over his payment."

## 34 eminent personalities

FROM PAGE 12

different forms from various levels of the government. Considering all these factors, we believe the criminal case against him in the Labour Court is driven by ulterior motives. This deeply concerns us," it reads.

According to the statement, Professor Yunus has earned global respect for his efforts to uplift the conditions of the impoverished and marginalised people.

It says he has brought prestige to Bangladesh by achieving numerous medals and awards, including the Nobel Peace Prize, the US Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Congressional Gold Medal.

Using various harassment tactics against him under the guise of legal and administrative proceedings is detrimental to his work and it conveys a negative message to the international community.

"We urge the government to stop all forms of harassment and biased hostilities against Dr Yunus," it reads.

On September 9, 2021, Labour Inspector (general) SM Arifuzzaman of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department filed a

labour law violation case against four people, including Nobel Laureate Dr Muhammad Yunus, with the Third Labour Court of Dhaka.

According to the case documents, officials of the Inspection for Factories and Establishments Department on August 16, 2021, inspected the office of Grameen Telecom in the capital's Mirpur and found several violations of labour laws.

On June 6 this year, the court framed charges against the accused - including Prof Yunus - in the case. The case trial began on August 22.

The signatories include: Educationist Abul Kashem Fazlul Haque; former adviser to the caretaker government Hafiz Uddin Khan; human rights activist Hameeda Hossain; former cabinet secretary Ali Imam Majumder; economist Debapriya Bhattacharya; Shushashoner Jonno Nagorik editor Badiul Alam Majumdar; legal expert Dr Shahdeen Malik; human rights activist Sharmin Murshid; environmental lawyer Syeda Rizwana Hasan; Prof Ali Riaz; Prof Asif Nazrul; photographer Shahidul Alam; Prof CR Abrar; Prof Parveen Hasan; Prof Firdaus Azim; and human rights activist Shirin Haque.

## Liton-less Tigers land in Colombo

FROM PAGE 1

fever before Bangladesh's opening match. Pacer Tanzim Hasan Sakib, who also missed the flight due to technical issues, is however expected to join the side today.

Chandika Hathurusingha's charges are expected to begin their training from today where the team management might want to figure out probable backup options for the opening slot.

Pacer Taskin Ahmed, meanwhile, was hopeful about the team's chances, hoping they could at least reach the final.

"Our main aim is to play in the final of the Asia Cup. I will be personally very happy if we can reach the final playing as a team," Taskin told the media before boarding the flight for Colombo.

"Obviously we wish to become champions, but the main thing is to play good cricket since we have a World Cup coming up shortly. If we can play our best cricket, it's possible to become champions," the pacer added.

## HC can't order surrender to lower court

FROM PAGE 12

Syed Ashfaquul Haque and his wife Tania Khondoker to surrender before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court in Dhaka in six weeks in a case involving the fall of a girl from their seventh-floor apartment.

The HC also directed law enforcers not to arrest them during this period. In compliance with the HC directive, Ashfaquul and Tania surrendered before the CMM Court in Dhaka on August 21 and sought bail, which the court granted till September 25.

Yesterday, the apex court scrapped the orders of the HC and the CMM court and directed them to surrender before the CMM court with a fresh bail petition.

The SC also asked the CMM court to consider their bail petition on the merit of the case, said Senior Advocate Md Motaher Hossain Sazu, the lawyer for Ashfaquul and Tania.

He said the SC observations and directives will be applicable to all similar cases in which the HC has directed the accused to surrender before the lower courts and asked the law enforcers not to arrest them for a certain period.

Deputy Attorney General Sarwar Hossain Bappi also said the Appellate Division's directive and observations will be binding on all courts.

The case was filed against Ashfaquul, Tania, and Asma Akhter Shilpi after a seven-year-old girl who was sheltered at Ashfaquul's house jumped off the couple's apartment in the capital's Mohammadpur on August 4, three days after her arrival.

The girl's mother Josna Begum filed the case with Mohammadpur Police Station on August 6.

The girl survived the fall with minor injuries, but has since fully recovered and is now living with her mother. In her statements before the court, she told the magistrate that she wanted to go home and so jumped off the building.

Yesterday, while moving the leave-to-appeal petition, Attorney General AM Amin Uddin read out from the first information report of the case before the SC.

He also cited from a judgement delivered by the Appellate Division on June 6, 2010, which prohibited the HC from directing any accused to surrender before lower court and law enforcers not to arrest the accused.

Lawyer Motaher Hossain opposed the petition, saying his clients are innocent, and they have not committed any offence in any manner.

He argued that the Appellate Division's directive and observations, cited by the attorney general, had

come from a murder case and is therefore not applicable to his clients.

The state's leave to appeal has become ineffective after Ashfaquul Haque and Tania Khondoker surrendered before the CMM Court in Dhaka on August 21 in compliance with the HC directive, and secured bail in the case against them, Motaher argued.

## Obama pens a letter of support for Prof Yunus

FROM PAGE 12

potential you invested in, and those of us who care about a more equitable economic future for all, are thinking of you, and I hope that you continue to have the freedom to do your important work."

Obama is thought to wield tremendous influence within the ranks of the Democrat party in particular, and US politics in general.

On August 20, a full bench of the Appellate Division cleared the way for a criminal case to continue against Dr Yunus and his co-defendants, by rejecting a petition to prevent the case from proceeding. The trial commenced two days later.

## Imran admits to misplacing

FROM PAGE 12

prime minister in the jail, media reports said.

FIA sources said a six-member joint investigation team, led by FIA Deputy Director Ayaz Khan, met Khan in the office of the Attock Jail's deputy superintendent and interrogated him for over an hour, the Dawn newspaper reported.

During interrogation, Khan admitted to losing the cypher, saying he couldn't recall where he kept it, The News newspaper reported. Khan also denied that the paper he waved at a public gathering last year, days before the ouster of his government, as proof of the conspiracy was the diplomatic cable.

"The paper I gestured in the public were Cabinet meeting minutes and not cypher," the paper quoted Khan as saying.

The investigation agency had registered the case against Khan and PTI vice chairman and former foreign minister, Shah Mahmood Qureshi, after ascertaining their deliberate involvement in misusing the cypher and its misplacement following a probe.

The FIR also stated that the role of the former prime minister's principal secretary, Azam Khan, ex-planning minister Asad Umar, and other associates involved would be determined during the investigation.

Qureshi, a close aide of Khan, was arrested by police from his house on August 19, and during Saturday's interrogation, Khan was questioned about the former's revelations.

Citing the cypher, Khan has been alleging the US of hatching a conspiracy to topple his government. The US has time and again denied

such allegations, terming them "categorically false".

The purported cypher contained an account of a meeting between US State Department officials, including Assistant Secretary of State for the Bureau of South and Central Asian Affairs Donald Lu and then Pakistani envoy Asad Majeed Khan.

The cricketer-turned-politician came under increased scrutiny following the publication of a purported copy of the secret cable by the US media outlet The Intercept, with many in the previous government led by Shehbaz Sharif pointing fingers at the PTI chief for being the source of the leak.

Former interior minister Rana Sanaullah has said that if Khan had indeed lost the copy of the cypher provided to him, it would constitute a crime under the Official Secrets Act.