

# Shashwta breaks out from ‘Bkasher Nahid’ moniker

On first glance, one might mistake him as the shady character of ‘Nahid’ from a popular commercial from a fintech company. ‘bKasher Nahid’ instantly became a synonymous with scammers everywhere. However, the actor behind the character is anything but.

SHARMIN JOYA

Kicking off his career with television commercials in 2010, Shashwta marked his acting debut with the tele-fiction *Kobi + Kusum*, directed by Shetu Arif, in 2021. Although his passion for acting made him wait for long, the actor got his deserving break this year with one of the projects from ‘Closeup Kachhe Ashar Ei Shomoyer Golpo’, *Shomoy Shob Jane*. Pairing with Tanjim Saiyara Totini in the Shakeeb Fahad directorial short film, was widely appreciated by the audience.

Shashwta is set to make his OTT debut in with Mizanur Rahman Aryan’s film, *Punormilone*. The project will start streaming from September 21. It also features Siam Ahmed and Tasnia Farin. “I am really excited about this project,” he said, adding that he got a call from the team only nine days before the shoots began. “I had to leave three television projects, to be a part of this film, and I am glad that Aryan *bhai* wanted me in this role.”

The actor had to go through a struggling period in the early years of his career broke his confidence, resulting in him willing to leave the industry several times and focus on another career. “My character in *Shomoy Shob Jane* changed everything, and the credit goes to Shakeeb *bhai*, for believing in me.”

“If it was due to not getting enough views, or something else, a few of my acted fictions were even brought down

from the production company’s YouTube channel,” shared the *Shoto Danar Projapoti* actor.

Earlier this year, he paired up with Tasnia Farin in the fiction *Nitur Jonno*, directed by Mostafa Kamal Raz, which earned him accolades.

The actor, who had a dream of becoming a cricketer, will be soon making his silver screen debut. The film will star Mosharraf Karim. “I cannot disclose much about the project, other than the fact that I have worked with Mosharraf *bhai* in it. It is surely an achievement to have the opportunity of sharing the screen with an actor like him.”

Moreover, his first full length feature film *Ismail er Ma*, directed by Ratan Paul, and produced by Bengal Creations, is yet to be released.

Shashwta is now busy in all mediums, a good problem to have. “I do not want to limit myself in any medium. I am grateful to the audience for accepting me,” he concluded. The actor will also be seen in Kajal Arefin Ome’s web film *Oshomoy*, a Bongo BD production.



PHOTOS: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

## Mostafa Kamal Raz signs Sariful Razz in ‘Omor’



After much speculation, filmmaker Mohammad Mostafa Kamal Raz has finally found his ‘Omor’ in Sariful Razz. The *Poran* actor will play the titular character. He has signed the official contract with the makers.

The director announced the news along with pictures yesterday.

“It’s a wonderful coincidence that *Omor* will be essayed by my namesake. I am confident that he will make the character ‘Omor’ (unkillable) with his outstanding acting,” said the director.

Earlier on, three powerful actors Fazlur Rahman Babu, Shahiduzzaman Selim and Nasir Uddin Khan, also signed up for the film in August.

## Drew Barrymore deletes emotional apology video after backlash



Drew Barrymore posted an emotional video where she discussed about the harsh criticism her programme on returning to television, amidst the SAG-AFTRA strike. Yesterday, the actress had to delete the video since it received severe social media backlash from her fellow members of the entertainment industry.

The Drew Barrymore Show, like the other productions mentioned, is under contract with the WGA, making it part of the strike.

This led fans to believe that it would also be cancelled, but the former child star decided to bring the show back which didn’t go well with the SAG-AFTRA organisation.

# COUNTRYWIDE

## Bagerhat TSC limps for shortage of staff

PARTHA CHAKRABORTTY

Bagerhat Government Technical School and College, the lone government technical school and college in the district, has been struggling to conduct its daily academic activities due to shortage of manpower.

Out of the total of 68 posts, at least 45 posts, including the principal, instructors, junior instructors, lab assistants and general teachers, have been lying vacant for long.

At present, the institution is running with only 23 staff, hampering its regular activities.

Moreover, several hundred students of the institution are also suffering from shortage of adequate classrooms and labs.

Besides, there is no canteen for more than seven hundred students and the college playground remains waterlogged for nearly four months of the year.

College authorities say that construction of a five-stored academic building is underway to meet the shortage of classrooms, accommodation and labs. Besides, the higher authorities have been informed about other crises.

The institution, formerly known as Vocational Training Institute (VTI), established on three and a half acres of land in 1965, introduced SSC (vocational) in 1995, and HSC (vocational) in 1997.

In 2003, it was renamed as Bagerhat

Government Technical School and College.

Currently, students are being enrolled under four separate trades—Computer and Information Technology, General Electrical Works, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning and Welding and Fabrication.

The institution started a four-year diploma course in Electrical In 2016, but closed the course in 2019 due to lack of manpower.

Shafayet Hossain, a 10th grader at electrical trade, said they are being deprived of playing any physical sport as the playground of the institution gets waterlogged even after a little rain.

Another student, seeking anonymity, said practical classes are basics of any technical education, but they are not getting such facilities due to lack of teachers.

Besides, if any lab instrument or material is broken or lost during the practical class, they all together have to pay for it, he added.

Contacted, Mohammad Badsha Mia, acting principal of the institution, said once the under-construction five-storey academic building is completed, classrooms, labs and other accommodation crisis will be solved.

They have informed the authorities concerned about the manpower crisis, but yet to get any reply in this regard, he added.



PHOTO: COLLECTED

Most students at Bagerhat Government Technical School and College barely get the chance to practice their experiments due to shortage of adequate lab assistants.

## Germany, France

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Adilur Rahman Khan, on behalf of the human rights organisation Odhikar, was the 2017 recipient of the Franco-German Prize for Human Rights and the Rule of Law.

“A vibrant civil society is essential to the prosperity of every nation,” the statement concluded.

On Thursday, a Dhaka tribunal sentenced the two Odhikar officials to two years’ imprisonment each in an ICT Act case, which was filed for running “a distorted report and doctored images” about the May 5-6 2013 police action on a Hefajat e-Islam rally in the capital’s Motijheel.

## Patuakhali fishermen

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awareness campaign to keep the sea and sea beach free from pollution,” said Sagarika.

As part of its awareness campaign, Ecofish has already distributed jute sacks among some fishermen.

“We have trained some 100 volunteers, including 20 women, to clean the Kuakata sea beach and to continue the awareness campaign,” she added.

Contacted, Nuru Majhi, president of Kalapara Upazila Trawler Majhi Samiti, said, “We have come to understand the adverse impact of dumping plastic bags, bottles, and polythene into the sea. Now, we have asked all fishermen in our area to refrain from this practice.”

Kazi Saifuddin, assistant director of the Department of Environment in Patuakhali, said, “We will take initiatives to make aware fishermen of not polluting the sea.”

## Govt needs to finetune it

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of Hyundai Motors in Gazipur.

The plant at the Kaliakoir Bangabandhu Hi-Tech Park is a joint venture of Bangladeshi company Fair Technology and Korea’s Hyundai.

“Such a factory is very important for Bangladesh because it creates jobs for the local youths. It works as a way of technology transfer and you get brand new cars instead of second-hand cars, whose carbon emission is higher than new cars,” Park said while interacting with the members of the Diplomatic Correspondents Association Bangladesh (DCAB).

Manufacturing at the plant began early this year. At present, 150 cars are made per month, with plans to manufacture 6,000 cars by next year.

However, Bangladesh’s industrial policy is not adequately supporting the manufacturing sector, he said, adding that only 2 percent of the cars plying the roads in Bangladesh are locally assembled or manufactured.

“If at least 15 percent of the cars could be locally manufactured, it would create lots of jobs and help the local economy.”

Asked what are the challenges of local manufacturing and foreign direct investment, he said: “The investment environment needs to improve. Even my colleagues faced difficulties in getting visas or renewing visas. Not only Korean companies but also other foreign companies face difficulties in opening LCs [letters of credit].”

The taxation and

customs system are not always transparent.

“These basic aspects need to be improved before asking for foreign investments,” Park added.

Ruhul Alam Al Mahbub, chairman of Fair Group, said they have big plans for more value addition production of cars and other electronic products.

“But we need stronger policy support. It was unimaginable that we could set up a car manufacturing plant. We could do it because of the government support. Our next plan is to set up a much bigger plant than this one. We want to go for full body and parts manufacturing.”

The government needs to think about promoting locally manufactured cars and take a decisive policy towards this end, Alam added.

## Man shot by ‘plainclothes’ police

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one of the men just shot him in the leg,” she said.

They then took Fahim and Naeem.

Sima said police later told her that they raided the house to catch one of their tenants.

She added that Fahim’s parents live in the U.S. Fahim and his brother Naeem were planning to go to Canada on December 23.

Imdadul Islam, officer-in-charge of Araihaaz Police Station, admitted that a shooting took place when police were raiding the Bamail area to look for suspected robbers.

The suspects first attacked the officers damaging three firearms and injuring three policemen, said Imdadul, adding that seven people were detained over the

incident.

He claimed that the team was in uniform and members from Demra Police Station were present there.

However, Demra OC Shafiqur Rahman said Demra police were not present.

“Araihaaz police conducted the raid. They were in civilian dress, but wore police vests,” he said.

## Derna struggles to cope

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fears waterborne diseases would spread, but no cholera had been recorded so far.

Swathes of Derna, centrepoint of the destruction in Libya’s east, were obliterated when the dams above the city broke, and the flood that swept down a usually dry riverbed brought down whole residential blocks while

families were asleep.

The International Organisation for Migration mission in Libya said more than 5,000 people were presumed dead, with 3,922 deaths registered in hospitals, and over 38,640 were displaced in the flood-stricken region.

The true death toll could be far higher, officials say.

“We should be afraid of

an epidemic,” 60-year-old Nouri Mohamed said, at a bakery offering loaves for free. “There are till bodies underground ... Now there are corpses starting to smell.”

The UN health agency together with the ICRC and International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies has called for burials to be managed better.

## Govt to sell potatoes

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cold storages in Munshiganj, Shafikuzzaman told the meeting.

He advised grocers to contact the UNOs if they cannot buy potatoes for Tk 27 a kg. The administration will then buy potatoes from the storages and sell those at Tk 27.

Those who attended the discussion include Aslam Khan, superintendent of police in Munshiganj; Tauhid Elahi, additional district magistrate; six UNOs; Shahid e-Hasan Tuhin, president of Munshiganj Press Club; Jahangir Hossain, president of Consumer Association of Bangladesh; and Abuzafar Ripon, deputy commissioner.

## PM leaves

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On the same day, she will address another conference titled “SDG Summit – Leaders’ Dialogue 4 (strengthening integrated policies and public institutions for achieving the SDGs) at the Trusteeship Council Chamber.

During the visit, the UN secretary-general, UN high commissioner for refugees, UN secretary-general’s genocide adviser, and directors general of International Organization for Migration, World Health Organization and International Atomic Energy Agency will pay courtesy calls on the PM.

Hasina is likely to hold bilateral meetings with Denmark Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Sri Lanka President Ranil Wickremesinghe at the Bilateral Booth of the UN headquarters.

The PM is expected to return home on October 4.