



Apurba takes his talents across the border

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Ziaul Faruq Apurba is a highly acclaimed actor in Bangladesh, renowned for his captivating performances in television dramas and web series. He has carved himself a distinct niche as a romantic lead. With his role in the drama **Boro Chele**, he has captured the hearts of audiences of all ages. His portrayal in the series **Buker Moddhe Agun** further solidified his recognition.

Recently, Apurba made his Tollywood silver screen debut with the film, **Chalchitra**. After wrapping up a 17-day shooting schedule there, he returned to his homeland.

In a candid conversation with The Daily Star, Apurba reflects on his experiences.

How was your experience working in Kolkata's cinema?

It was a beautiful journey, one to be etched in memory. Everyone in Kolkata showed profound respect, and their sincerity shone through. As an artiste, I'll always hold dear the memories of my journey in Kolkata.

You've shared the screen with Raima Sen in the movie 'Chalchitra'.

Can you share your thoughts about working alongside her?

I can't single out just one individual; I've had wonderful experiences collaborating with numerous talented artistes. Each artiste had a distinctive way of expressing emotions and love. I've witnessed camaraderie and affection from all sides, leading to a treasure trove of cherished memories.

Your presence in the Indian media

has been frequent.

Indeed, I've received significant attention, and I'm deeply appreciative of the abundant love and support I've received from everyone.

How did the opportunity to act in Kolkata's cinema come about?

It all started with Friends Communication. They got in touch, and we engaged in discussions. When I read the script, I really liked it.

Any memorable experiences working with the director?

I have worked under the direction of Pratim D Gupta, a highly gifted director. I must also acknowledge the contributions of Tota Roy Chowdhury, Raima Sen, Shantanu Maheshwari, Swastika Dey, and all the other actors.

What prompted you to accept the role in 'Chalchitra'?

It was the narrative. The storyline of **Chalchitra** held the greatest allure for me. Bengali audiences have an affection for storytelling and I, too, fell in love with the narrative. It features extraordinary characters and offers a distinctive thrill.

During your 17-day stay in Kolkata, what culinary delights did you relish?

Kolkata and Dhaka are in close proximity, offering a plethora of culinary options. If I were to name a few, Shingara would be at the top of the list. I also savoured a delectable pastry made with creamy milk, as well as chaap mutton. Not to forget, I enjoyed a scrumptious biryani from a renowned shop in North Kolkata.

How optimistic are you about the film? I'm a believer in destiny. Everything is in the hands of the Creator. I've done my part, and the rest lies in the hands of Him.

Jungkook's 'Seven' becomes fastest song to surpass 900M streams on Spotify



BTS' Jungkook has broken another record and this time its in Spotify for Fastest Song to Surpass 900 million Streams with his first single **Seven** featuring Latto. **Seven** surpassed the 900 million mark in 92 days, shattering Miley Cyrus' previous record of 93 days.

The song comes from Jungkook's debut solo album, **Golden**, which will be released on November 3. The official music video for **Seven** was uploaded on YouTube in July.

The debut single by the Korean artist reached number one on the Billboard Hot 100 in the United States and the Global 200. On the same day, his new track **3D**, starring Jack Harlow, received 100 million Spotify streams.



Ajay Devgn praises Jaya Ahsan's film poster

Ajay Devgn has been in awe of Srijit Mukherji's upcoming cop universe film, **Dawshom Awbotaar**. The film's poster and trailer have impressed everyone from Amitabh Bachchan to Bollywood's favourite **Singham**.

Recently, Ajay Devgn shared his best wishes for **Dawshom Awbotaar** on his Instagram account.

"Shubho Mahalaya! Presenting **Dawshom Awbotaar**, the original Bengali Cop Universe. Best wishes from Singham to Prabir. In cinemas on October 19," read the post.

Jaya Ahsan shared the post and thanked the **Singham** star. "It really means a lot. Thank you, Ajay Devgn," wrote the actress.

NEWS

Afghanistan stun

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The stunning upset gave Afghanistan just their second World Cup win to add to a lone victory over Scotland at the 2015 tournament.

They came into Sunday's clash having lost their opening two games in India and on a 14-match losing World Cup streak.

After Gurbaz and the recalled Ikram Alikhil, with 58, had given them a decent target to defend, Afghanistan's bowlers went to work, striking at regular intervals.

Jonny Bairstow (two) was lbw to Fazalhaq Farooqi in the second over before Joe Root was clean bowled by 22-year-old man of the match Mujeeb for 11.

England were tied down, at one stage going more than eight overs without hitting a boundary until Brook managed the team's lone six of the innings in the 31st over.

Mujeeb sent back Chris Woakes before effectively sealing the game in his next over, having Brook (66 off 61) caught behind by Alikhil with England at 169-8.

Late fireworks from Adil Rashid (20), Reece Topley (15) and Mark Wood (18) only served to take England

past the 200-mark.

Earlier, Gurbaz, 21, piled up his runs off 57 balls with eight fours and four sixes to register his eighth score in excess of fifty in his ODI career.

However, he was furious that he was unable to go on to make a sixth century when he was involved in a disastrous run-out mix-up with captain Hashmatullah Shahidi in the 19th over.

An angry Gurbaz smashed his bat into a chair as he departed with his team on 122-3.

Gurbaz had needed just 33 balls to get to his half-century as Afghanistan, put into bat, stormed to 100 without loss from 77 deliveries.

England spinners then dragged the champions back into the contest in the middle overs.

Their seamers, however, endured a day to forget with Sam Curran conceding 46 runs off four overs and new ball bowler Chris Woakes coughing up 41 off his four.

England went into Sunday's game after a loss to New Zealand and victory over Bangladesh while Afghanistan suffered heavy defeats by six wickets to Bangladesh and eight wickets to India.

Probe report

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Rab-5 picked her up on March 22 when she was on the way to Chandipur Union Land office where she was an office assistant.

A day after her detention, she was sued under the Digital Security Act in Rajshahi "for siphoning off money from job seekers using a Facebook account".

Her son Shahed Hossain Saikat, a student of Chattogram University, had then reportedly said, "She died due to torture in Rab custody. She has an injury mark on her head."

Family members had also said Jasmine was in perfect health.

Rab Director General M Khurshid Hossain reportedly told the parliamentary standing committee on the home ministry on April 5 that Jasmine's "murder" in Naogaon has tarnished the image of the country, the government, and the force.

"The thing was done from the [local] camp; the battalion or the headquarters knew nothing about it," he said.

On March 28, the HC bench led by Justice Farah Mahbub questioned under what authority the Rab picked up Jasmine though she was not accused in any case at the time of her detention.

"She might have committed a heinous crime. But she has the right to get protection and justice. There are rules for regulating Rab, which is a special force. Can Rab detain any person without any case? Our concern is whether Rab followed relevant procedures in dealing with her," the bench said during the hearing of the writ petition on March 28 filed by Supreme Court lawyer Monoj Kumar Bhaumik.

On April 5, the HC bench issued a rule asking the authorities concerned to explain why Jasmine's detention by Rab officials without any case should not be declared illegal and unconstitutional.

The court asked the officials to show causes why they should not be directed to take action against the Rab members who picked her up.

The bench also directed the cabinet secretary to form a high-powered committee, including the chief judicial magistrate of Naogaon and a judicial officer nominated by the district judge, to investigate the incident.

'EU to send small team'

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per our constitution. The Election Commission will announce the schedule. We will hold the polls according to the schedule," Faruk added.

Requesting anonymity, two AL leaders, who were in the meeting, told this newspaper that the EU will send a four-member expert team, which will reach Bangladesh in November and leave after the election.

On September 20, the EU told the EC that it decided not to send a fully-fledged election observation mission for the upcoming national polls.

Faruk said the meeting proved that the EU wants fair elections in

Bangladesh, which the AL also wants.

"They also wanted to know what we will do to hold elections in a fair manner."

Claiming that there was no discussion about the BNP, the AL leader said, "However, we think that the BNP is a responsible political party; we hope that they will join the next election."

Faruk added that there were no discussions on dialogue.

"The members of the European Union also wanted to learn how we will run the country if we win the next election. We told them that they will get the answer to that question in our election manifesto," he said.

In response to their question as to what the AL's polls manifesto will be like, the AL leader said they told the EU that it will have two aspects.

"In the first, we will tell the people how much we have fulfilled the pledges that we had made in the manifesto of the last election. A committee has been working on it.

"We had a very good meeting. The 50 years of diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the EU are very good. Our prime minister is going to Brussels in a few days. There will be a partnership agreement between us. They said these things at the beginning of the meeting," he said.

Cops, officials see hurdles

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election schedule is announced."

The national election is likely to be held in early January, and the EC is planning to announce the schedule in early November.

The EC on Saturday started the first phase of training for divisional commissioners, deputy commissioners, deputy inspectors general of police, superintendents of police and regional election officers.

A police officer told a training session that additional law enforcers will be needed if ballot papers reach the polling stations on election day.

"The number of polling centres is high compared with last time. We face difficulties while ensuring law and order. If we need to take the ballot papers in the morning, we will be under

pressure," said another police official.

Until the last general election, ballot papers reached polling stations the day before the election day.

The national election is likely to be held in early January, and the EC is planning to announce the schedule in early November.

The matter became contentious after the December 30, 2018 election with the opposition alleging that "ballot box stuffing took place the night before the voting day".

The Jatiya Oikyafront in January 2019 told the EC that between 30

and 60 percent of the votes were cast using the ballot papers on the night before the polls.

On January 15, 2019, Transparency International Bangladesh in a study found that stamping of ballots took place on the night before the election day in more than one centre in 33 constituencies out of 50 surveyed.

In 30 constituencies, ballot papers were stamped openly after occupying polling booths on voting day, according to the study titled "Review of Election Process of 11th National Election".

Speaking to The Daily Star on February 14 last year, former election commissioner Mahbub Talukdar said: "It was an established truth that ballot box stuffing took place the night before voting day [in 2018]."

in court on August 24, the lawyer pointed out that the investigation officer only probed eight people out of the 61 to see if they were dead or alive.

Last year, the government cancelled the registration of Odhikar as an NGO, while the case was under trial.

The United Nations Working Group of Enforced and Involuntary Disappearance had written to the government and termed the court case "a smear campaign".

Gaza crisis spirals

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area to civilians.

Iran has praised the Hamas attacks but insisted it was not involved. However, the United States, which has sent two aircraft carriers to the eastern Mediterranean in a show of support for Israel, is wary.

In Washington, White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said the United States feared an escalation, particularly the prospect of Iran becoming "directly engaged".

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has in recent days toured Middle Eastern capitals in a frantic round of diplomacy to try to avert a wider crisis in the volatile region.

He is due back in Israel today for further talks with Israeli leaders, the State Department said as he arrived in Cairo.

Blinken has appealed to China to use its influence in the region to ease tensions.

But Foreign Minister Wang Yi

yesterday said Israel's response had "gone beyond the scope of self-defence".

He called on Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his emergency government to "cease its collective punishment of the people of Gaza".

Israel has massed thousands of troops and heavy weaponry in the desert south of the country, waiting for the green light to go into northern Gaza.

The army has told 1.1 million Palestinians in the north of the Gaza Strip -- nearly half of its 2.4-million population -- to head south to safety.

On the other side of the border, Israelis were moving to safer areas.

Military spokesmen Lieutenant Richard Hecht and Daniel Hagari said any ground offensive would be triggered by a "political decision".

Netanyahu visited frontline troops on Saturday, telling them "more is coming" but without specifying when any ground operation would start.