

# NASIR UDDIN KHAN: A man from Chattogram conquers Busan

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From his stellar performances in *Mohanagar* to reaching new heights with *Syndicate*, *Poran*, *Hawa*, and *Myself Allen Swapan*, Nasir Uddin Khan has conquered versatile characters on both the silver screen and OTT platforms.

Recently, his film *Boli (The Wrestler)*, directed by Iqbal Hossain Chowdhury, made history by winning the prestigious New Currents award at the 28th Busan International Film Festival. This accolade marked a significant milestone for our local film industry, as *Boli* became the first Bangladeshi entry to clinch this coveted title.

Nasir warmly recalled the moment when he learned of *Boli* winning the award at the Busan International Film Festival. "When the award was announced, I was shopping with my director. After connecting to the free Wi-Fi, I received messages congratulating me. Only later did we both realise that *Boli* received the award, and tears of joy began to flow."

For Nasir, the film's success was deeply meaningful, as he hails from Chattogram, just like the director. The film represented Bangladesh at the Busan Film Festival, where audiences from around the world watched a film that was made in the regional language of Chattogram. Nasir was moved by the overwhelming response of the audience there.

Reflecting on the journey of making *Boli*, Nasir commended the exceptional teamwork that went into the project. "From the director to the production crew, everyone poured their dedication into this project. When a project is driven by love, you know it will do well, but I never imagined it would win an award."

Actors usually watch their films during dubbing. However, Nasir did not dub for *Boli* exclusively. It was his first opportunity to watch the film at the Busan festival, and it was his first overseas tour too.

"At first, I was really nervous about my performance in the film, as I am the protagonist and everyone's eyes will be on me. However, I am satisfied with the performance I have delivered," said Nasir.

Coming from a conservative family in Chattogram, Nasir Uddin Khan's passion for acting initially faced disapproval from relatives. His wife, in particular, bore the brunt of criticism from others, with people questioning his choices. However, she remained steadfast in her support, a fact that Nasir is deeply grateful for.

"Without her, this wouldn't have been possible," Nasir affirmed, underscoring the importance of her understanding and support. "I never felt pressure from my wife. She was very understanding and supportive. My children, too, are my biggest fans and a constant source of strength."

Looking ahead, the actor hasn't planned anything yet. He intends to continue at his own pace, trusting his instincts. He recently completed shooting for the film *Omar*, directed by Mostofa Kamal Raz. His film, *Boli (The Wrestler)*, is awaiting its theatrical release next year.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED



## Jungkook to collaborate with Shawn Mendes, Ed Sheeran for new album

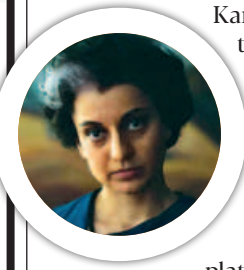
BTS star Jungkook is set to release his first solo album *Golden*, which will comprise entirely English songs. The *Seven* singer will be collaborating with renowned musicians Ed Sheeran and Shawn Mendes.

According to the track list, the album will include *Closer to You*, a collaboration with Major Lazer, and another with DJ Snake on his song *Please Don't Change*. Additionally, he is gearing up to join forces with Shawn Mendes, Ed Sheeran, and David Steward for *Yes or No*, *Hate You*, *Somebody*, *Too Sad To Dance*, *Shot Glass of Tears*, and the main track *Standing Next to You*. *Golden* is set to be released on November 3.

## Kangana Ranaut delays release of her directorial debut 'Emergency'

Kangana Ranaut has announced the postponement of the release of her directorial feature film, *Emergency*. The film was initially scheduled to hit theatres on November 24 this year but has now been rescheduled for a 2024 release.

Taking to her social media platform, Kangana explained that the decision to postpone *Emergency* was due to an already packed schedule for the final quarter of 2023.



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## Condition in Rakhine not suitable now

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She told journalists that the US is the single largest donor in supporting the Rohingya refugees, which is \$2.2 billion since 2017.

Afreen, who arrived in Dhaka early Sunday, told the RRRRC that any repatriation should be voluntary, dignified and safe.

The US will continue to work with Bangladesh and the international community to find a long-term solution to the crisis that includes eventual repatriation, she told the RRRRC.

Mizanur Rahman told her that the Rohingyas are frustrated as they cannot return home.

He also informed her that the monthly food allowance for a

Rohingya refugee has gone down to eight dollars, which is inadequate.

When Afreen asked him if there was any pressure regarding Rohingya repatriation, Mizanur responded in the negative.

However, Bangladesh will continue to work with the countries that have influence over Myanmar for repatriation, he said.

"I sought both financial and political support in this regard," he told The Daily Star.

**DON'T FORGET ROHINGYAS' PLIGHT** Meanwhile, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi yesterday urged the international community not to forget the plight of the ethnic Rohingyas in the midst of many other

world crises, reports AP.

More support is needed to help the displaced Rohingya population and also relieve the burden on the countries hosting them, he said on the sidelines of a regional meeting on Rohingya refugees in Bangkok.

He said financial contributions for Rohingya relief have declined, and this year's UN budget for the Rohingyas is "barely 40 percent funded", a sharp drop from about 60-70 percent in previous years.

At the event, Britain's Minister for the Indo-Pacific Anne-Marie Trevelyan announced 4.5 million pounds (\$5.5 million) additional funding for the Rohingyas and host communities in Bangladesh.

## AL warns of tough action

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Secretary Sujit Roy Nandi, Relief and Social Welfare Affairs Secretary Aminul Islam Amin, among others, also spoke on the occasion.

At another event in Kushtia, AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif said BNP's violence will be strictly suppressed, reports BSS.

He urged all to build a united

resistance against BNP and its anti-liberation allies as they are trying to raise their head again to thwart the country's development and democracy.

The BNP issued ultimatums many times to topple the government but to no avail. Because 70 percent of the people have faith in the AL government under the leadership of Hasina.

He said this in response to a question from reporters before attending a meeting with party leaders and activists at his home in Kushtia town.

In response to another query, Hanif said before asking any questions about the AL government, the BNP leaders and activists should look at their own faces in the mirror.

## IMF to suggest new exchange rate system

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loan programme, the central bank had committed to introducing a unified, market-based exchange rate from June.

On paper, BB introduced the market-based exchange rate in July. In practice, the exchange rate is fixed by the Bangladesh Foreign Exchange Dealer's Association and the Association of Bankers, Bangladesh on unofficial instructions from BB.

The visiting IMF mission, led by Rahul Anand, is not happy with the existing exchange rate system as it is failing to bolster the dollar stockpile.

The IMF staff mission is on board with the government's request for a lower reserve target for December and June next year that accommodates the present context of the economy.

The net foreign reserves target was set based on import bills for a certain number of months. Since the government has dramatically brought down imports from the time when the targets were set, a lower target is not inappropriate, according to officials.

At December end, Bangladesh is supposed to have at least \$26.8 billion in net international reserves.

Now, Bangladesh's net international reserves are less than \$18 billion, according to the calculations of Zahid Hussain, a former lead economist of the World Bank's Dhaka office.

Given the forthcoming polls, it is not possible for the central bank to take any drastic measures to preserve reserves, so the the December target will be unmet, as with the previous quarters' targets, officials said.

Subsequently, the IMF mission decided to request a concession to this mandatory condition from the board.

The IMF staff mission is also not happy with the interest rate system introduced in June as it is not truly market-based.

As per the BB's new interest rate formula, banks can impose a 3 percent margin on the "six-month moving average rate of treasury bills", abbreviated as SMART. In other words, there is still a ceiling on the interest rate.

Subsequently, the IMF mission called for a true market-based interest rate system.

The IMF mission said it is on board with the decisions taken by the government but is dissatisfied with the slow implementation, especially in financial and revenue sectors.

For instance, the IMF team is satisfied with the amendments to the Bank Company Act but are not happy with the high defaulted loans in the banking sector, particularly at state banks, and the corporate governance.

In the revenue sector, the IMF wanted the government to conduct a study about the scenario of tax exemptions in different sectors.

There has been very little headway in conducting the study and the IMF will most likely set a timeframe for this, said a finance ministry official.

The mission discussed dynamic energy pricing formula and slashing subsidies for the energy sector.

The IMF mission is expected to finalise the next plan of action for the government by today.

## Take steps to ensure security

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groups of people with malicious intents could carry out misdeeds, which could escalate this year as the election approaches.

With this in mind, top officials of the Prime Minister's Office directed that all out preparations for security must be taken by the administrations concerned.

Contacted, a police official, requesting anonymity, said the government is giving utmost importance to ensuring that there are no untoward situations centring puja celebrations.

"This was the issue of utmost

importance in the meeting. A couple of DCs and SPs in their speeches raised the issue of taking extra caution this year as it is an election year."

A Hamid Zamadder, religious affairs secretary, emphasised coordination with other religious leaders through discussions if places of worship of other religions are located near puja mandaps.

Kamrul Hasan, disaster management and relief secretary, said his ministry has allocated half a tonne of rice to each puja mandap.

Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullah Al-Mamun

reminded the meeting attendees of various incidents during Durga Puja celebrations in the past and asked everyone to ensure that those do not repeat this year.

He also asked the police to conduct routine patrols at the mandaps.

SPs and DCs of Dinajpur, Bhola, and Magura districts also spoke at the meeting.

The prime minister's office secretary, director generals of the Border Guard Bangladesh, and Bangladesh Ansar and Village Defence Party, among other officials concerned were present in the meeting, sources said.

## PM calls upon global leaders to stop war

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addressing a gathering of women entrepreneurs at her Gano Bhaban residence following the inauguration of the Joyeeta Tower in the city's Dhanmondi.

Earlier in the morning, the prime minister inaugurated the 12-storey Joyeeta Tower that was built on one bigha land at a cost of Tk 168 crore.

Hasina said the tower was built to help grassroots women market their products easily and thus become self-independent financially.

Briefly describing the measures

taken by her government for women's welfare, she said, "We've introduced the system of reserving posts for women in union, upazila, and district councils mainly to explore women's leadership from the grassroots."

The premier also urged women to bring every inch of land under cultivation against the backdrop of the global economic recession and rise in inflation.

"We have to grow our own food. So, grow whatever you can by utilising every inch of your fallow lands," she said.

Hasina finally called upon all to

vote her party to power again in the upcoming general election to sustain the country's development.

"The people of the country got freedom by voting for the boat [AL electoral symbol]. Today, Bangladesh has the status of a developing country," she said.

The premier said that Bangladesh is now witnessing democracy as her party is in power.

"People's rights are now guaranteed, economic progress is being ensured, and the country is moving forward," she added.

## It all boils down to rivalry

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Habibur alleged that Nawshad, who served as the governing body president for the last four consecutive terms, had been putting pressure on him to allow "unlawful recruitment" of five people, including a relative of his.

"Most of the governing body members opposed making Nawshad the governing body chief over his alleged bribery of around Tk 1 crore over recruitments," said the principal.

Denying the allegation of bribery, Nawshad told The Daily Star that the principal opposed his appointment because he revealed the principal's involvement in Tk 1.44 lakh irregularities.

Former MP Wadud said he kept himself away from madrasa affairs.

"I don't want to speak against the MP of my own party. But the picking up of the principal by the MP's men,

taking him to the lawmaker's home and threatening him was unfair," he added.

The principal on Monday filed a complaint with Puthia Police Station in connection with the incident.

Habibur alleged that eight of the lawmaker's armed men picked him up from the madrasa around 9:00am.

They took him to the MP's home in Rajshahi city in a microbus and kept him there until around noon before police took him back to the madrasa in a police vehicle.

Rofiqul Alam, additional SP of Rajshahi district police, said they were investigating the incident and that they would take actions if the allegations were found to be true.

This newspaper has obtained a copy of the principal's complaint.

It said the principal at the lawmaker's home was asked to accept the MP's choices of the madrasa

governing body president and recruitment of staffers.

On Saturday, the lawmaker phoned the Habibur and threatened to forcibly pick him up if he did not see him at his home by the next day, said the madrasa principal.

Refuting the allegations, lawmaker Mansur said, "I didn't pick up the principal. He came to my home willingly and we had sweets together. Does anyone have sweets if he is abducted?" the lawmaker told The Daily Star.

The MP said that he discussed with the principal the appointment of madrasa governing body president, but recruitment of staffers did not come up for discussion.

Md Rofiqul Islam, acting OC of Puthia Police Station, said the lawmaker called in the police to take the principal back to his office.